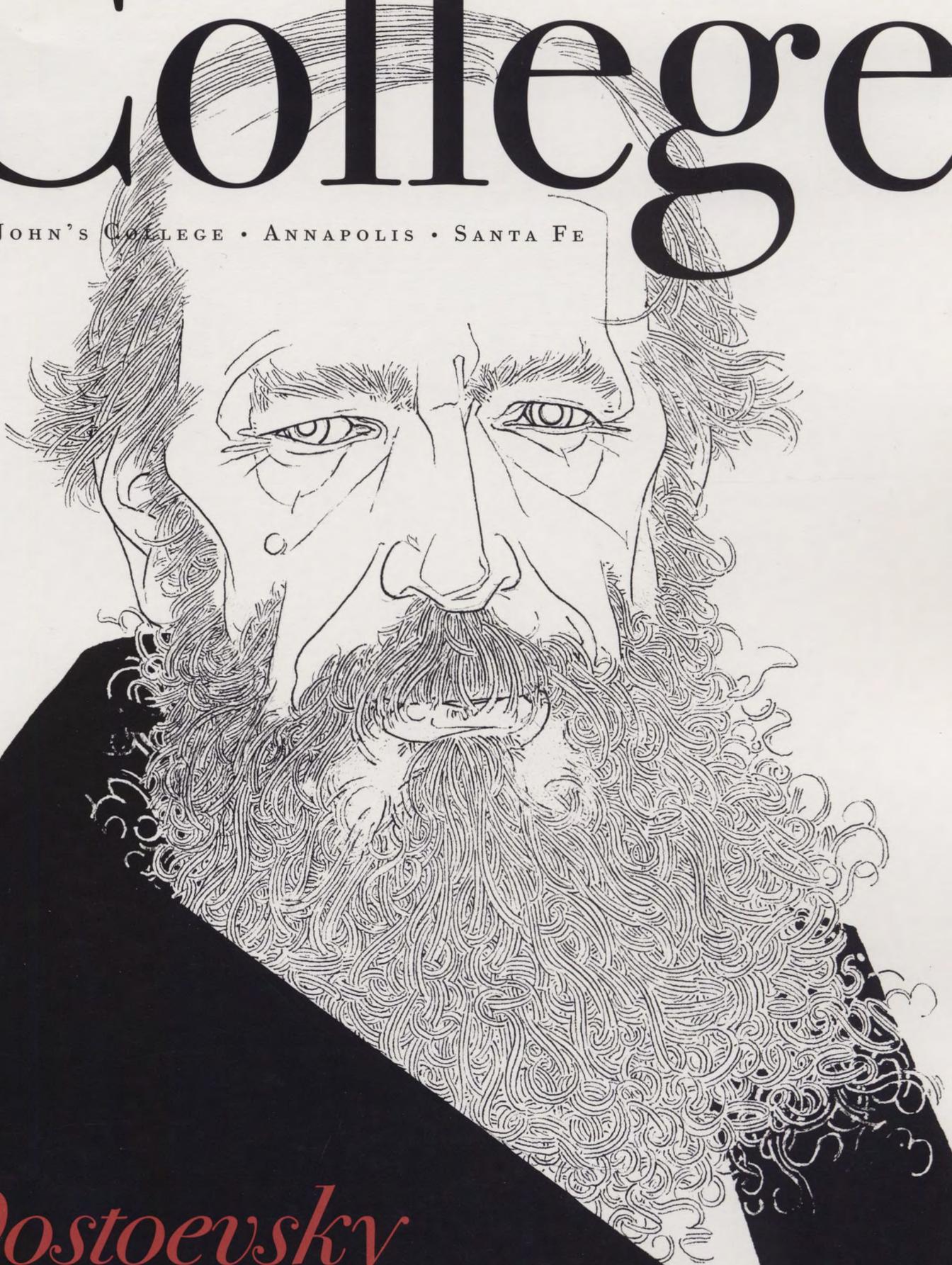


THE College

SUMMER 2002

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE • ANNAPOLIS • SANTA FE



Dostoevsky

EXPERIENCES WITH CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Fyodor Mikhaylovich Dostoevsky's own life had all the elements of a complex psychological novel. Born in 1821, Dostoevsky spent his childhood in Moscow. His early years were defined by the opposing personalities of his parents: the gentle mother who bore seven children; the cruel, repressive father—a physician who was likely murdered by his own serfs during a quarrel. Both died by Dostoevsky's 18th birthday.

Dostoevsky was educated at home and at a private school. After the death of his parents, undoubtedly following his rational side and the guidance of his elders, Dostoevsky studied military engineering at a St. Petersburg college. However, by the time he was in his mid-20s, he had resigned his commission to write novels, the first two of which were *Poor Folk* (a success) and *The Double* (panned by the critics).

In 1846, Dostoevsky joined a secret utopian society. The socialistic tendencies of the secret group were not favored by the government, and Dostoevsky was arrested on April 23, 1849 as he read a tract in public. Although Dostoevsky was sentenced to death, the emperor ordered a reprieve of the sentence. Dostoevsky wasn't informed until moments before his scheduled death, after he and two others had been tied to posts in the prison yard. He served four years of hard labor at a prison in Omsk, Siberia, before being exiled "into the ranks" as a common soldier. In the solitude of prison, in the suffering of his body and soul, Dostoevsky began the self-examination that led to his spiritual awakening. He still professed unbelief, yet, as he wrote in a letter from prison, "Sometimes God sends me moments in which I am utterly at peace."

After the stint in prison and the army, Dostoevsky returned to St. Petersburg. He wrote *The Insulted and Injured* based on his experiences, but the book was so unpopular he felt compelled to defend his ideas in a public letter. When he was 36, the struggling writer married Maria Isaev. He worked as the editor of a publication called *Time* which was shut down because of its political reporting. Personal crises culminated with the death of his wife and brother in 1865.

In his middle years, Dostoevsky suffered from frequent epileptic seizures and spent most of his time in dire poverty which he made worse through obsessive gambling. He wrote *Notes from Underground*, *Crime and Punishment*, and *The Idiot* within a five-year period during this turbulent time. With his second wife, the young stenographer Anna Grigorievna, he began to lead a more stable existence, finally settling in a small provincial town after several years of travel. Proceeds from *The Possessed* enabled them to buy a house. There he worked on his final book, *The Brothers Karamozov*, and enjoyed a measure of public admiration. Dostoevsky's later books were serialized, making him something of a cult figure with his deeply spiritual voice and commentaries on the state of Russian society.

Dostoevsky's novels are marked by the dichotomies he himself experienced: gentleness and cruelty, faith and unbelief, sin and redemption, suffering and love. He knew criminals well and had ample opportunity to reflect on their sensibilities. He had strong political opinions (socialist in his youth, much more conservative later in life) and explored the social implications of evil and sin in his novels.

In this issue of *The College*, we look at some views on crime and punishment formed, like Dostoevsky's, on the anvil of experience.

—BC



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ANNAPOLIS • SANTA FE

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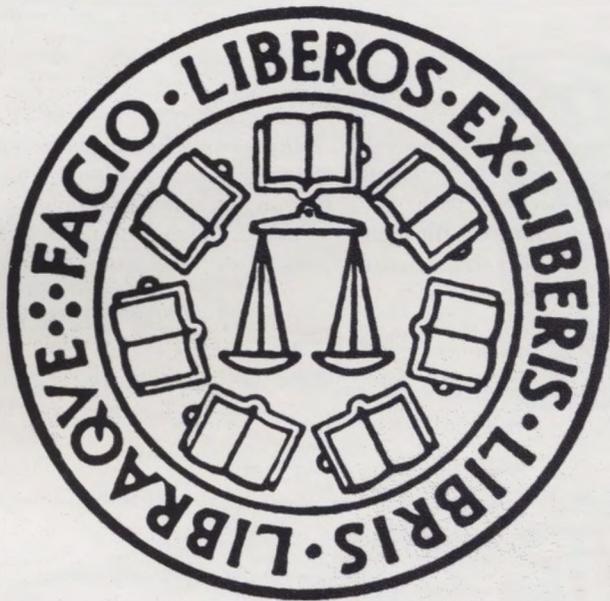
ON THE COVER

Dostoevsky

Illustration by David Johnson

ON LIBERALISM AND LIBEROS

Stringfellow Barr, one of the New Program founders and president of the college from 1937 to 1947, delivered a series of radio talks on WFBR in Baltimore. Here are excerpts of the talk he delivered on June 20, 1938, in which he tells the story behind the "books and balance" seal that had come to symbolize the program. Editor's note: Today we use inclusive language to translate the motto: "I make free adults from children by means of books and a balance."



THE ORIGINAL ART FOR THE BOOKS AND BALANCE SEAL, USED UNTIL 1997, WAS HAND DRAWN. THE LATIN PUN WAS WRITTEN BY A FRIEND OF BARR'S.

The other day an interesting and curious gift arrived at St. John's College. It was a design in the form of a circular seal, and it was the work of a Harvard man who admires the educational program which this College has undertaken and who chose to express his admiration by designing this symbolic seal. In the center of the seal is a pair of scales, or balances. Around it in a circle are placed seven open books, representing the seven liberal arts. And around the open volumes is lettered the motto, "Facio Liberos ex Liberis Libris Libraque." I suppose the motto may be fairly translated: "I make free men out of boys by means of books and balances." The punning on the stem of the Latin word for free is a serviceable pun now that liberal education is

confronted with a worldwide decline of liberalism.

...Since the New Program is an effort to restore liberal arts education in American colleges, I should like to speak this evening about liberalism and what it means to those of us who are still willing to fight for it.

Like most liberals today, I am disturbed by the rise in many parts of the world of government by violence as a substitute for government by reason and consent. But unlike most liberals I know, I am much less disturbed by the overthrow of free government in states that were once democratic than I am by the confusing of the liberal mind in states like ours which are still technically free. You may argue that confusion in the liberal mind disturbs me because I know that such confusion is normally followed by the overthrow of free government. I agree that this is what normally happens; but even if you could assure me that "it can't happen here," I should still be disturbed by the present state of liberalism. Because I agree with those who founded our Republic that what they and we have called free institutions cannot alone and of themselves make men truly free. Free institutions are a means to an end, not an end in themselves. The end is the freedom of individual men and women... ✻

IS ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY STILL RELEVANT?

Is ancient philosophy still relevant? Such was the theme that faculty professors, students, and guest lecturers were invited to address at Seattle University's 7th Annual Philosophy Conference held on May 17. Among the visiting lecturers was St. John's tutor Joe Sachs (A68).

I think most of *The College* readers would agree, the answer to the theme question is a resounding Yes! The distinguished panel at the conference shared this opinion and supported it with readings from their essays. The readings covered topics inspired by the works of Hegel, Aristotle, Plato, Husserl, Nietzsche, and Diogenes.

In his essay "Wholes and Parts in Human Nature," Joe Sachs tackled the tough questions of Who are you? and What are you? Drawing on the tradition of thought established by

Plato, Aristotle, and Hume, Mr. Sachs put forward the thesis that our characters are indeed composed of the parts known as Reason and Passion, but added that there is an equally important third part, Spirit, which employs Reason and Passion and creates a whole from the triumvirate.

Aristotle gave us the analogy of a syllable in the *Nicomachean Ethics* to illustrate the notion of a whole composed of inseparable parts. A syllable is visually composed of separate letters but is considered a whole when spoken. Take the first syllable of the word "memory," for example. If you sound it out slowly you'll hear that the continuity of sound requires that each utterance be shaped by the following letter. Sounding out each letter individually does not a syllable make. In this way the syllable is a whole composed of parts that are harmoniously united.

Mr. Sachs drew on this analogy to talk about the soul as being composed of universal Reason, generic Passions, and distinctive Spirit. In a harmonious unity of parts, the Spirit interacts with the Passions as an impetus to action and uses

ST. JOHN'S EDUCATION A MODEL FOR MYANMAR

Educators from Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) visited the Annapolis campus last spring, attending sophomore seminars on *Macbeth* and *Descartes's Discourse on Method*, freshman lab, junior mathematics tutorials, a senior language tutorial on Flannery O'Connor, and a senior oral.

"I was asked to help them understand how we teach and learn together at St. John's," says tutor John Verdi, who organized their visit at the college. "They are especially interested in how tutors help each other to become better teachers of discussion classes, and how students learn to support their positions with reasoned arguments." The visit was coordinated by Dorothy Guyot, a former tutor who is currently working with Burmese educators through a non-profit organization, the Myanmar Foundation for Analytic Education.

Myanmar became isolated from the outside world in 1962, when its military government shut off most exchange in commerce, the arts, and education. New books are scarce and those that arrive are photocopied;

most academics have not been able to receive journals for a long time. The country has begun to encourage tourism and other types of interaction with the rest of the world.

Dr. Khin Maung Win, who earned his PhD at Yale and went on to become professor of philosophy at Yangon University and then Minister of Education and Ambassador to France and India, came to observe St. John's along with his daughter Dr. Khin Ma Ma, who earned her medical degree at Yangon University and now practices medicine in Mandalay.

He hopes that what he learned in his U.S. visit can be used to lay the groundwork for new modes of faculty development in higher education and a new program to prepare high school graduates to study in the U.S. "Seminars are very important to train future citizens," says Dr. Khin Maung Win. "A modern society needs people to have discussions... In Myanmar, traditionally teachers are very highly respected. There is a saying 'when the teacher says the sun rises in the west, it must be true.' Students don't ask questions."

Introducing the St. John's pedagogy of student-led learning in Myanmar will not be easy, according to Matthew Ting, a 2002 Annapolis graduate of Burmese descent. As an American, Ting says, "I have a tendency to open my mouth and not shut it. But some of my cousins that were raised in Burma are quiet. And a lot of St. John's education is just getting people to talk." ❖

—BY BETH SCHULMAN



SEATTLE UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS CORINNE PAINTER, BORT HOPKINS, AND CHRISTIAN LOTZ DISCUSS ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY WITH ANNAPOLIS TUTOR JOE SACHS (CENTER).

Reason as a guide for action. The Spirit, then, is the source of practical judgment in our daily affairs. Greatness of soul, brought about by the Spirit's dialectic movement in which it first attains, then disdains, the rewards of virtue and honor, becomes the distinctive difference that leads to a correct sense of one's own self-worth, right action, and a happy life.

Readings from other visiting lecturers and Seattle University professors and students were similarly interesting and informative. For instance, Villanova University professor Walter Brogan examined the kinship between practical and theoretical philosophy as illustrated with Aristotle's notion of friendship. Seattle University was well represented by several professors from its Philosophy department. Licia Carlson presented a holistic picture of ancient Greek music, and concluded with the discovery that philosophy is a form of music

in itself. Christian Lotz, also a professor at Seattle University, simultaneously entertained and informed with his power-point presentation on the important example of Diogenes, who practiced philosophy in a wholly public life (eating, sleeping, and philosophizing in the marketplace) instead of exclusive institutions and academies.

With these and other fine expositions, the 7th Annual Philosophy Conference was considered a success by its organizers and attendees. Several St. John's alumni were in attendance to hear Mr. Sachs speak, including Bill Boon (A80), Diana Klatt (A89), and Nina Tosti (A89). The Philosophy Club at Seattle University organized this annual conference to give students and professors the opportunity to present their work to an audience of colleagues, peers, and the general public. ❖

—BY AMINA STICKFORD (SF01)



BURMESE VISITORS KHIN MAUNG WIN AND KHIN MA MA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE STUDENTS

Annapolis rising senior **AARON McLEAN** received Honorable Mention for a paper submitted to the Elie Wiesel Ethics Essay contest, a national competition sponsored by the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. Mr. McLean's essay is entitled "On the Combing of Hair in Herodotus." The essay is posted on the Foundation's web site at www.eliewieselfoundation.org.

The Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest is an annual competition open to undergraduate juniors and seniors in the U.S. and Canada, designed to challenge college students to analyze urgent ethical issues confronting them. Students are encouraged to write thought-provoking, personal essays. All submissions are judged by a committee of scholars, and a jury that includes Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel decides the winners.

ANDREW HUI, of Garland, Texas, who graduated from Annapolis in May, received a Jack Kent Cooke scholarship for graduate study. The award covers full tuition, expenses, travel, and a stipend, and is renewable for up to six years.

A first-generation immigrant from Hong Kong, Mr. Hui came with his family to America the summer of the Tienamen Square incident. His parents operate a retail aquarium in Garland, where he has worked over school vacations. Mr. Hui plans to study sacred music and comparative literature, probably at Yale. He is interested in the religious influences in Dante, Milton, and Racine and will examine how they manage to encompass Greek mythology in a Christian worldview.

OFFICER AND STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Under an administrative change in the structure of the college, **JEFF BISHOP** (HA99), formerly vice president for advancement in Annapolis, has been appointed vice president for college-wide advancement. He will coordinate fundraising efforts and external relations for St. John's and will travel between the two campuses. On the western campus, **MICHAEL FRANCO**

has been appointed vice president for advancement, Santa Fe. Mr. Franco formerly held advancement positions at Rhode Island School of Design, the University of Rochester, and Boston College. **BARBARA GOYETTE** (A73) has been appointed vice president for advancement, Annapolis. For the past eight years, she has served as director of public relations and publications (aka communications) in Annapolis.

JO ANN MATTSON (A87) has been appointed director of alumni activities in Annapolis.

She replaces **ROBERTA GABLE** (A78), who is now director of placement. Ms. Mattson is a teacher, musician, and artist. She drew the spoofs of Greek statues that decorated last year's Homecoming and Croquet weekend brochures.

MARLINE MARQUEZ SCALLY has been named registrar in Santa Fe. She formerly worked at the Santa Fe Waldorf School, where she played many roles: Spanish language teacher, events coordinator, development coordinator, faculty chair, member of several boards, administrative council member, admissions director, and college member (comparable to the SJC Instruction Committee). Ms. Marquez Scally received her BA from College of Notre Dame (Calif.) and pursued an MAT at Trinity College in Washington, D.C.

ROSEMARY HARTY has been appointed director of communications in Annapolis. She held a similar position at the University of Baltimore, and has worked on public relations and publications at Catholic University (Washington, D.C.) and the University of Dayton. She was a newspaper reporter for 10 years prior to working in higher education. As one of her duties she will become editor of *The College* magazine, replacing Barbara Goyette.

DAVID PIEROTTI has been appointed Entering Director of Laboratories in Santa Fe. He will work closely with current director Hans von Briesen for the coming year. Mr. Pierotti has been working in the fields of environmental science research and education for the past 25 years and has also been a consultant with a number of governmental and commercial laboratories. Some of the agencies with which he has worked include the EPA, NASA, the California Air Resources Board, and the National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council.



GRECIAN WOMEN, AN ILLUSTRATION BY THE NEW ALUMNI DIRECTOR, JO ANN MATTSON, A87 DECORATED LAST YEAR'S HOMECOMING BROCHURE.

STAFFORD LOANS

As reported in the last issue of *The College*, now is a great time to consolidate student loans. For alumni with loans from several different colleges, or from undergraduate and graduate study, this option should be considered, according to Bryan Valentine, treasurer in Santa Fe. When student loans are consolidated, the rate is locked in, rather than the rate being re-set each July as it is in the normal repayment cycle. Rates for Stafford loans went to 4.625% on July 1. Information on student loan rates can be found at www.staffordloan.com (click on "consolidation").

CHANGES ON THE BOARD

The St. John's Board of Visitors and Governors has a new chair, new officers, and several new members. **RAY CAVE** (A48) is serving as chairman of the Board. Cave was the editorial director of *Time, Inc.*, and has been a long-time member of the Board and supporter of the college. He was co-chair of The Campaign for Our Fourth Century. **GREG CURTIS** has completed his tenure as chair; he remains an active member of the Board. **STEWART GREENFIELD** (A53) and **JONATHAN ZAVIN** (A68) are serving as vice chairs. **JEREMY SHAMOS**, (SFG176) is serving as secretary. This marks the first time in memory that all officers of the Board of Visitors and Governors are alumni of the college.

New members of the Board are **JAUNE EVANS** (with the Lanan Foundation), **RICHARD HOSKINS** (an attorney with the Chicago firm of Schiff Hardin & Waite), **ROGER KIMBALL** (with The New Criterion), **MARK MIDDLEBROOK** (A83), and **THEODORE ROGERS** (with American Industrial Partners).

THE TUTORS

Santa Fe tutor **PETER PESIC** has a new book out. *Seeing Double*:

Shared Identities in Physics, Philosophy, and Literature was published by MIT Press in February. An article, "Quantum Identity," appeared in the May-June 2002 issue of *American Scientist*. In the article, he addresses some of the questions that arise when thinking about quantum mechanics—especially the unusual consequences of "like particles being completely indistinguishable from one another."

"Bacon's Proof: The Career and Controversies of Edward Teller" is a review of Teller's memoirs written by Annapolis tutor **ADAM SCHULMAN** and published in the spring 2002 issue of "The National Interest." A physicist who worked on the Manhattan project, Teller was one of the European theoretical physicists who "laid the foundations of quantum mechanics." Schulman connects the physics involved in

the making of the atomic bomb with Bacon's notion that scientists "would secure and augment their prestige in society...by the mastery of nature that their practicable science would confer on other men. Bacon predicted that the fruits of the new science would include not only inventions for the relief of human misery but also weapons of immense destructive power."

Annapolis tutor emeritus and former dean **CURTIS WILSON** was honored in April with a *festchrift* organized by the Dibner Institute, an international center for advanced research in the history of science and technology established in 1992 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Held at the Annapolis campus, the *festchrift* featured talks, demonstrations, and tributes to Mr. Wilson, who was honored for his role as an eminent histo-

rian of science. George Smith, a professor at Tufts, noted that Mr. Wilson "has done far more than anyone else to provide all of us with a deep understanding of the three centuries of orbital astronomy from Kepler through Simon Newcomb." The weekend also featured a lecture by Noel Swerdlow of the University of Chicago on "Scientific Cosmologies" that focused on our understanding of Ptolemy. Other presenters included Bill Donohue (A67), of the Green Lion Press, who spoke about the section in Kepler's manuscript where he comes to the realization that orbits are elliptical; James Voelkel of the Dibner Institute; Dana Densmore (A65), of the Green Lion Press; and David DeVorkin of the Smithsonian Institution. A surprise finale to the weekend was a musical presentation by Santa Fe tutor Peter Pesic. ❖



SPRING TRADITION FOR GIs: AT THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE DINNER IN SANTA FE, PART OF COMMENCEMENT WEEK ACTIVITIES, MARY ANN CLEAN TOASTS HER COLLEAGUES AND TUTORS.

A CONGRESS OF JOHNNIES

Homecoming in Annapolis is set for October 4-6.

JoAnn Mattson (A87), the new Director of Alumni Activities in Annapolis, will kick off the festivities this fall in a personal way: she's hosting a Friday evening barbecue (with her husband Walter Mattson, A87) for the fifteenth year reunion class, the redoubtable Class of 1987 Annapolis. But then she'll hustle back to campus to preside over a Homecoming filled with events not only for reunion classes but for all and sundry who return to Annapolis when they hear a party's going on.

Eva Brann (HA89) will deliver the Class of '94 Homecoming Lecture at 8:15 Friday evening (not that any alumni need to be reminded of the time for lecture), in the newly refurbished FSK Auditorium. After lecture alumni will follow their lights, either to the Question Period, to a reception in the dining hall with the Class of 2003, or to the Boathouse, where a traditional boathouse rock party will evoke The Cave, but in a nice way.

Saturday morning brings a cavalcade of seminars, on readings from Plato to Emerson, from Dostoevsky to Wallace Stegner. After the big Homecoming Picnic down by the sycamore trees, all are invited to the Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association, where tutors emeriti John Sarkissian and Robert Williamson, and longtime creator of lab equipment Al Toft, will be made Honorary Alumni. Annapolis President Chris Nelson (SF70), Annapolis Dean Harvey Flaumenhaft, and Alumni Association President Glenda H. Eoyang (SF76) will give reports,

and the Alumni Association elections will be held.

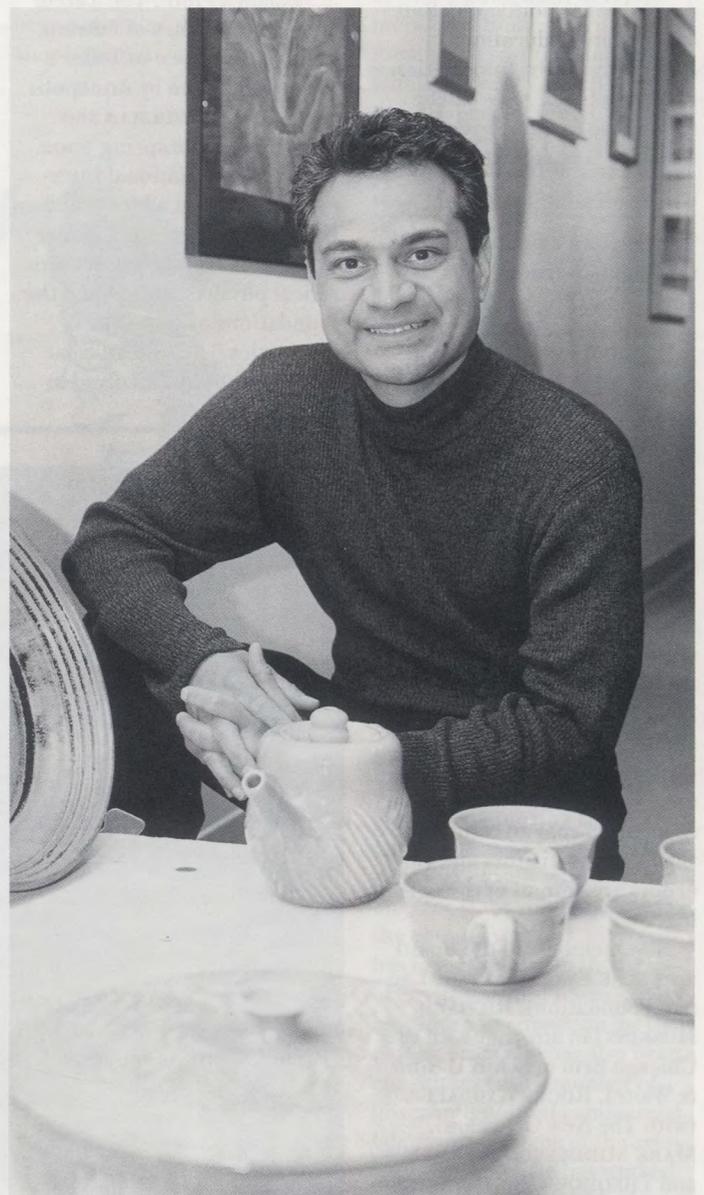
After the Annual Meeting there's a wide variety of diversions around campus: a Mitchell Gallery Tour (the exhibition will be "The Sweet Uses of Adversity: Images of the Biblical Job"), Freshman Chorus Revisited (led by Tom May), a Pick-up Basketball Extravaganza sponsored by the Classes of 1987 and 1988, the traditional Soccer Classic (us against them), and a happily crowded Bookstore Autograph Party, where 10 faculty and alumni authors will autograph their wares, from *Complexity and Analysis* (Stewart Umphrey) to *The Golden Age: A Romance of the Far Future* (John Wright, A84), from *Strategic Renaissance: New Thinking and Innovative Tools to Create Great Corporate Strategies Using Insights from History and Science* (Evan Dudik, A72) to *The Shape of an Ear* (Elliott Zuckerman, HA95).

All reconvene in McDowell at 6:00 for the cocktail party, which stretches throughout the first two floors of the building, with the core party in the Great Hall, and reunion class get-togethers in classrooms. Thence to Randall Hall for the Homecoming Banquet, where the reunion classes will offer toasts, and two members of the class of 1967, Candace Brightman and Howard Zeiderman, will be given the Alumni Association Award of Merit.

Those with true virtue and endurance will then repair to McDowell, where two parties will parse them according to their taste: in the coffee shop, yet another cave-like rock party, this one with, more appropriately, no water view; in the Great Hall, a waltz party sponsored by the class of 1972, with floral decorations (reminiscent of Rose Cotillions), and Elliott Zuckerman at the piano. (Yes, there will also be swing music for you swingers.)

Finally, the traditional President's Brunch will be held on Sunday, with this innovation: we're moving the apostrophe and this year calling it the Presidents' Brunch, since Santa Fe President John Balkcom (SFG100) will be in town to join Annapolis President Chris Nelson (SF70) in hosting the brunch at his home in Wardour. Interspersed throughout the

weekend into all these general events are special shindigs for the reunion classes, all the years ending in seven or two: 1937, 1942, 1947, etc. through 1997. Check the Homecoming brochure (with McDowell on the front cover) for details, registration form, everything you need to know about Homecoming and some fine photos besides. ✨



SIDDIQ KHAN, ARTIST AND POTTERY INSTRUCTOR ON THE SANTA FE CAMPUS, POSES WITH SOME OF HIS CREATIONS. THE FACULTY AND STAFF ART SHOW, HELD EVERY SPRING, FEATURES PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, PHOTOGRAPHY AND TEXTILES AS WELL AS POTTERY.

FUTURE FARMER OF ANNAPOLIS

As a sophomore, Justin Naylor (A02) worked in the college archives processing the papers of New Program founder Stringfellow Barr. Among the hundreds of Barr's documents that Naylor indexed were those that explored world government, higher education, foreign policy, and religion. And gardening.

Though it's not on the program, Johnnies might be interested to know that Barr is the author of *The Kitchen Garden Book*, written in 1956 when Barr was teaching at the University of Virginia. The book, subtitled "Vegetables from Seed to Table," is part essay, part instruction manual, and part cookbook. It covers soil preparation and garden planning in addition to detailed sections devoted to 32 different vegetables, from the humble turnip to the popular tomato. "Barr was a lifelong dedicated gardener," says Naylor. "His brother James was a farmer. I sense Barr was interested in farming in the Jeffersonian tradition—small scale agriculture, the culture around agriculture, the kind of citizen it produced."

Around the time that Naylor was reading Barr's book, Masao Imamura's (AGI99) wife, Jackie, recommended that Naylor read Eliot Coleman's *The New Organic Grower* and several other books that fed his interest in agriculture and environmental sustainability. Interest led to endeavor. In 1999, Naylor took a year off from St. John's to serve a 10-month apprenticeship on a small-scale, six-acre organic farm that raised mixed vegetables in Delaware.

When he returned to the college, he started a gardening

club. Along with about ten other Johnnies (including Librarian Lisa Richmond), he built seven 25-foot beds and three 10-foot beds on back campus between the tennis courts and King George Street. Working mainly on Saturday and Sunday mornings, the club members grow spinach, peas, tomatoes, peppers, melons, cucumbers, lettuce, marigolds, cosmos, and sunflowers. At any given time, between 5 and 10 students are actively involved in the work—a respectable showing on a campus of 450.

Naylor likens the appeal of gardening to that of the gym or the woodshop: When you spend so much time thinking, you need to find an outlet for doing. "The gardening club meets a lot of needs," says Naylor. "Club members are interested in working with plants, working outside, growing food, and working with their hands."

This spring the gardening club teamed up with the environmental club to sponsor a talk by Brian Halweil, a research associate at the Worldwatch Institute (a policy research organization that focuses on emerging global problems and the links between the world economy and its environmental support systems).

"Halweil focussed his talk around the two major claims of biotech companies: that biotech crops are necessary to make agriculture sustainable and that they are necessary for feeding the world's growing population. Both of these claims are highly emotionally charged and are difficult to be against," explains Naylor. "Brian's approach was to look at what has actually been produced by these biotech companies and to show that there is a disconnect between their claims and actual practices. For example, the few biotech crops released so far have, if anything, increased chemical usage and are thus less sustainable.



AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY INTERESTS JUSTIN NAYLOR, SHOWN HERE WITH THE COLLEGE GARDEN HERBS.

"Halweil also made the case for an ecologically-based agriculture, and used as a case study a particularly noxious weed in Africa that has not been dealt with adequately using conventional chemical means. He pointed out, however, that this weed is only a problem in depleted, over-farmed soils. In soils that have been properly cared for, this super-weed is simply not a problem."

As Naylor learns about modern approaches to agricultural sustainability, he says that in some ways, not much has changed since the publication of Barr's book. "He was a thoughtful advocate of organic agriculture when it was considered a world of hippies and freaks," Naylor says, reading a relevant passage:

"There is a ferocious war of words on between organic farmers and those who depend on chemicals. The case for organic gardening has made great progress; the proof is that more and more of its opponents have begun to argue that both methods are needed. The case would have progressed even faster if cranks had not overstated it."

Naylor praises *The Kitchen Garden Book* and recommends it to anyone working the earth. "Even if it weren't by Barr," he says, "it would still be a worthy book on my shelf."

Newly graduated, Naylor continues to pursue his interest in agriculture. With the help of a USDA loan, he is renting four acres on a property adjacent to the farm he worked on last summer. His first crops should be out next spring. ♣

BY SUSAN BORDEN (A87)

THE GARDEN BOOKSHELF

Naylor recommends these books to all Johnnies with an interest in gardens:

The New Organic Grower
by Eliot Coleman

Four Season Harvest
by Eliot Coleman

The Kitchen Garden Book
by Stringfellow Barr

Heirloom Vegetable Gardening
by William Woys Weaver

Botany for Gardeners
by Brian Capon

PHILANTHROPIA BRINGS REALITY TO ADVANCEMENT

How many Johnnies does it take to raise \$12,000? Fifteen—if they're juniors volunteering their services to help out Reality Weekend.

In the Philanthropia spirit of alumni working on alumni fundraising, the Annapolis Reality archon, Justin Jones (A03) put together a team of pre-alumni (St. John's juniors) to conduct an advancement office phonathon. In exchange for their help, advancement donated \$500 to Reality.

The April 23 phonathon proved a resounding success, with 457 calls made in 3 hours raising \$12,691 dollars (so far—more checks continue to come in). Maggie Griffin, Director of the Annual Fund in Annapolis, says that the most impressive statistic for the phonathon was the number of gifts made in the weeks following the phonathon when messages the students left on answering machines were returned by enthusiastic alumni. Of 331 messages left,

56 have already sent checks.

"That number is absolutely astounding!" says Griffin.

"The students delivered the St. John's message so effectively—the alumni really responded to them."

By the end of the night, students were asking about volunteering for the next phonathon and seeking student aide positions in the advancement office. "And they were good," says Advancement Officer Mary Simmons. "There were quite a few we would have loved to hire on the spot."

Another positive effect of the phonathon will be felt this coming year as the junior class begins to form the senior class gift committee. Perhaps a repeat of Santa Fe's senior class triumph (see page 9) is in the making. ✦



AS PART OF PHILANTHROPIA'S EFFORT TO INSTILL AWARENESS OF ALUMNI FUNDRAISING IN THE STUDENTS AT SANTA FE (WHO ARE, AFTER ALL, THE ALUMNI OF THE FUTURE), THE GROUP BROUGHT 600 KRISPY KREME DOUGHNUTS TO CAMPUS THE MORNING BEFORE REALITY. STUDENTS BLEARY-EYED AFTER A NIGHT OF FINISHING UP PAPERS AND FACULTY WHO ARRIVED EARLY FOR THEIR CLASSES AGREED—DOUGHNUTS AND COFFEE MAKE FOR A HAPPY BEGINNING TO ANY DAY, PARTICULARLY THE FIRST DAY OF "REALITY."

LETTERS

WINTER WARFARE

On page 16 of the Winter/Spring 2002 issue of *The College*, there is a winter scene of Annapolis. In that photo of "Winter Warfare," I am off stage left with my friend Matt. Matt had the good arm. The targets are Liz Stuck and Wendy LeWin, both freshmen in 1977-1978, which should date the picture more accurately. Both were from Minnesota, I think, two of three Minnesota girls (Marian Sharpe, from Pine City, being #3) that started that year, and therefore impervious to winter.

—DAVID NAU, A81

LIBERTY BELL

Kudos to St. John's for refurbishing the Liberty Bell replica (Win-

ter/ Spring issue). This symbol of our democracy has an even greater significance since 9/11. As one of the school children who contributed pennies for the yoke of the bell 50 years ago, I have always had a particular fondness for the bell. I am pleased and proud of the stewardship the college has provided this great emblem of our freedom.

—RON MCGUIRK, A60

MORE CALENDAR IDS

In the Philanthropia Calendar for 2002, I can identify the guitar players pictured for October. Linda Stromberg was at SJC (Santa Fe) from 1973 to 1975. Later she attended Antioch College and earned a degree in biology, I think. With her might be Jim Shea (based on the hair), who began with the same class.

—SHERI ANDERSON, SF78



STUDENTS DELIVERING THE MESSAGE ABOUT THE COLLEGE'S NEEDS WERE HEARD LOUD AND CLEAR BY ALUMNI.

THE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT SOLUTION

The Santa Fe class of 2002 has set a new standard for giving. Who's next to meet the challenge?

On the wall of President John Balkcom's Santa Fe office hangs a certificate he received at Commencement: "The Senior Class Gift: on behalf of eighty-seven graduating seniors, each of whom made a contribution," it reads. The certificate commemorates not just the gift, but the story behind the gift. The class is the first to achieve 100% participation in a St. John's fundraising effort. Each of the graduates contributed to the nearly \$3000 collected so far for the gift—a classic film collection for the Meem Library.

Work on the project began early in the year when seven seniors—Sara Abercrombie, Erik Barber, Jessica Godden, Maria Goena, Katherine Greco, Matt Reiter, and Emma Wells—stepped forward to form the Senior Class Gift Committee. The kickoff event was a party at the Cowgirl Hall of Fame, a local hang-out, where committee members explained the annual fund. In December, before the winter ball, seniors were invited to a reception at the president's house, where the committee provided eggnog and appetizers and repeated the message of the role of alumni in the financial workings of the college.

At a Valentine's Day party in

February, Paula Maynes (SF77), a member of Philanthropia (the alumni group that encourages financial support for the college), spoke to the seniors about life after St. John's. The class then discussed what changes they would like to make at the college—from faculty compensa-

tion to scholarship support—if money were no object. By the end of the event, they zeroed in on the film collection as their gift.

On the day of Commencement, the seniors were ready to celebrate their success. Committee members Emma Wells and Sara Abercrombie stepped

forward to present Balkcom with the certificate commemorating the gift, as well as their class's new record for participation. "There's one thing they can be certain of," says Santa Fe Annual Fund Director Ginger Roherty. "It's a record that can be equaled, but it will never be broken." ❖



DAVID TROZZO

EXCITING TIMES IN THE MAILROOM: RENZO BRUNDELRE, MICHAEL SULLIVAN, AND MICHAEL TEREBY HELD COVETED STUDENT AIDE POSITIONS IN THE MAILROOM LAST YEAR AS PART OF THEIR FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE.

FINANCIAL AID FACTOIDS

- Financial aid at St. John's is admissions blind and need-based. Admissions blind means that students are admitted to the college regardless of whether they apply for financial aid or not—their family's financial status is not a factor in their admission. Need-based means that the college considers only the family's and student's income in granting aid and does not offer aid to various categories of students (trombone-playing triathletes, perhaps?) to fill the class with "desirable" students.
- St. John's attempts to offer an aid package that meets the demonstrated needs of students. But, since the college budget is finite, not every student can receive 100% of the funds they need. Applying early in the cycle helps assure that students receive an optimal package. Students are sometimes placed on a waiting list if the money available for student aid has already been allocated.
- Students receive a package with some or all of the following components: St. John's College grant, Federal work-study position (student aide job), and loan. Many students seek scholarships and fellowships independently.
- In 2001-2002, the average aid package was \$20,762. (Tuition for the year was about \$25,000.)
- 50% of students on financial aid last year had an annual family income of less than \$60,000.
- About 50% of students on both campuses received financial aid from the college last year.

CRIME and PUNISHMENT

Five alumni who work in the field tell the real story behind the drama of criminal justice.

BY SUSAN BORDEN, A87

A woman lies in wait for her husband who has just returned from a long trip; she kills him as he relaxes in the tub. A thief is sentenced to be chained to a mountain; each day an eagle devours his newly regenerated liver.

From the bloodbath of Clytemnestra to Prometheus bound, crime and punishment have long proved inspirational for the imagination of writers. This ancient well-spring continues to inspire the artists of our modern world. Literature on crime and punishment is a mainstay of bestseller lists. Television—"Homicide," "Law and Order," "The People's Court"—feeds our hunger for the subject. Movies—*Rope*, *Twelve Angry Men*—sometimes offer a more thoughtful examination.

A criminal act is the essence of drama: man opposes man in conflict's barest form. The killer stalks his prey. The thief plots against the land owner. Even after the crime is committed, opposition is at the heart of the system: The defense lawyer fights the prosecuting attorney. The witness defies the judge. The guard beats the prisoner.

These are the antitheses through which we've learned to view crime and punishment. But are they valid?

St. John's alumni who work in the field of criminal justice suggest they are not. Far removed from the seminar table and discus-

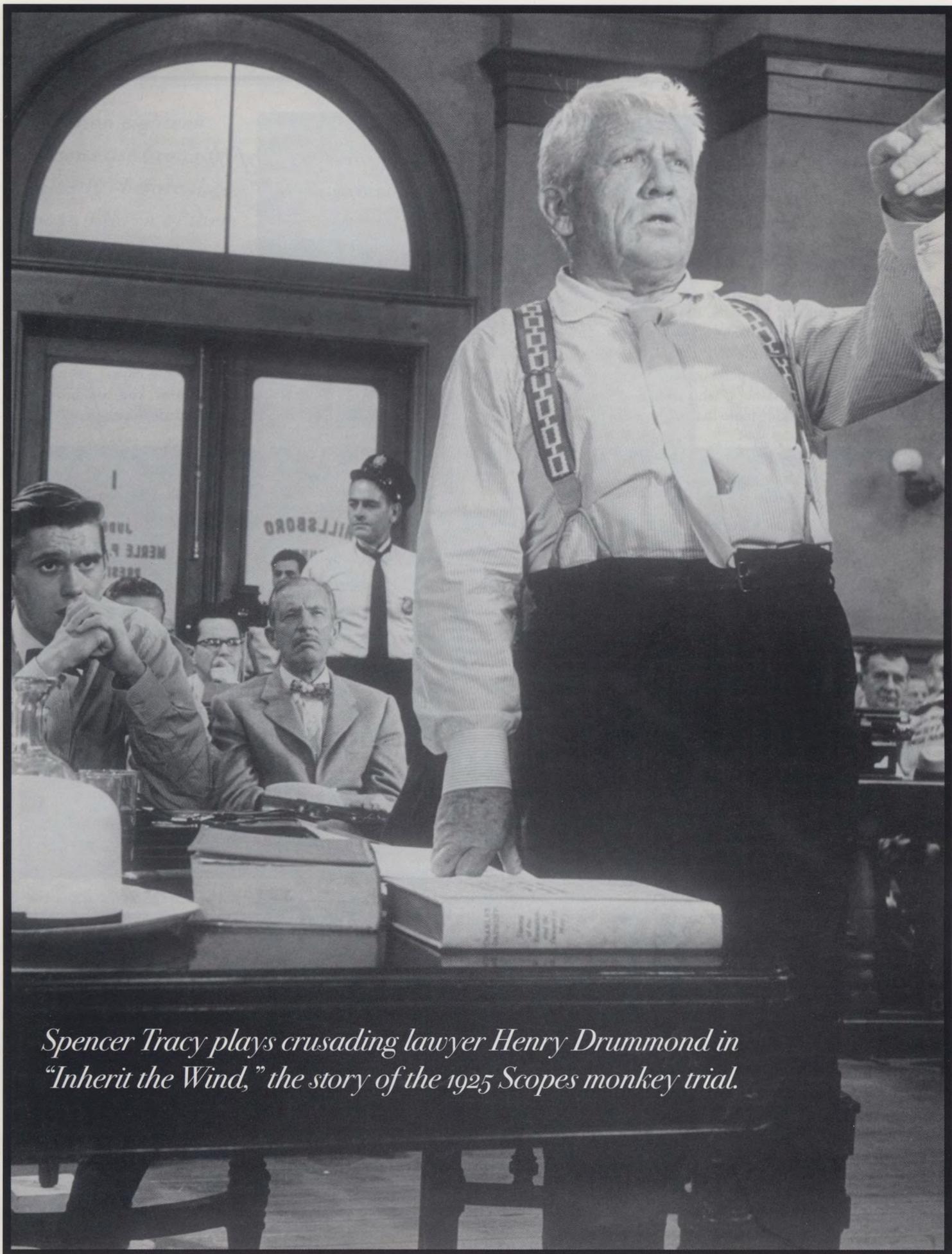
sions of justice, motive, and retribution, alumni who work with criminals confront these issues directly. As the dramatic interplay of crime and punishment come together in the province of justice, it is justice's role to resolve, rather than heighten that drama. Justice is society's mechanism for placing an irrational act into a rational context. Once a crime is assigned its proper weight, the scales of justice return to balance and society is able to function. Through punishment, the criminal justice system imposes a rationality on the irrational world of crime. This, for the most part, is too thoughtful a process to allow for much drama.

THE CRIMINAL MIND

A desperate young man plans the perfect crime—the murder of a despicable pawnbroker, an old woman no one loves and no one will mourn. Is it not just, he reasons, for a man of genius to commit such a crime, to transgress moral law—if it will ultimately benefit humanity?

—PUBLISHER'S COPY (BANTAM CLASSICS) FOR DOSTOEVSKY'S CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

The idea of the criminal mind—from Smerdyakov to Hannibal Lecter—both fascinates and repels. What must it be like, we thrill to imagine, to loose ourselves from the bonds of morals, to think the unthinkable, to plan the forbidden, to perform the act that will forever set us apart from our fellow man?



Spencer Tracy plays crusading lawyer Henry Drummond in "Inherit the Wind," the story of the 1925 Scopes monkey trial.

"I'd hate to live in a country in which 50% of the people who are arrested are innocent."

—ELIZABETH UNGER CARLYLE (A73)
CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYER

Elizabeth Unger Carlyle (A73), a criminal defense lawyer who lives in Lee's Summit, Missouri, has regular and close association with the criminal mind. She is neither repelled by her clients nor fascinated by their misdeeds. "I think there's a group of people, a sad group, who really perceive themselves as powerless and at the mercy of circumstances," she explains. "They get into bad situations by not thinking more than one step ahead and they end

"I spend a lot of time reminding people that the people who get into trouble are just like the people who don't," says Carlyle. "In many ways it's 'there but for the grace of God go I.' If you took my current clientele and dressed them in suits instead of prison clothes and took them to some casual restaurant and interspersed them among the patrons, you couldn't pick them out. When people say 'how can you deal with people who



IN "YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH MURDER," BOGIE'S CHARACTER SEEMS IRREDEEMABLE: HE'S A THIEF, DOUBLE-CROSSER, MURDERER, AND BLACKMAILER.

up in the middle of the burglary or the middle of the murder and can't tell you how they got there. A lot of people come to me saying, 'I don't know how this happened. Trouble always finds me.' They don't know how not to be found by trouble."

David Johnson (A68), a probation officer for 30 years who now teaches in the criminal justice department at the University of Baltimore, says that addiction is often a factor: "Some criminals are what we call sociopaths, but by and large I've worked with people who have exercised bad judgment. A lot of people who commit crimes have problems with substance abuse or gambling. That causes them to have problems with the law because first, their judgment is really poor and second, they have a need for money. They resort to crime—to stealing or dealing drugs."

are guilty?' I say, 'don't you ever make a mistake?' I've got a client now who managed to get himself ten years for selling six grams of marijuana. That's not a bigger mistake than most people make."

ORDER IN THE COURT

Several young girls, caught in a minor transgression, are unjustly accused of a capital crime. In a trial poisoned by petty suspicions, financial disputes, superstition, and lovers' revenge, accusations fly

and soon eighteen citizens are brought— unjustly—before the court. Eleven of them are put to death.

When exculpatory evidence is presented to the judges they reject it, fearing it will place their earlier verdicts in doubt.

In the end, seven more innocent people go to the gallows.

—PLOT SUMMARY, ARTHUR MILLER'S *THE CRUCIBLE*

The scenes are replayed every week on TV: Corrupt police arrest the wrong man. The prosecutor pulls out all the stops in the relentless pursuit of a guilty verdict. The jury follows the lead of a misguided foreman as the judge wearily shakes her head.

However common these scenes of injustice are in fiction and drama, front-line professionals say they are rare in real life. From arrest through sentencing, those involved in the U.S. criminal justice system say that, despite its flaws, it's a system that works.

At first it seems strange when Elizabeth Carlyle praises the system by saying that most of the clients she defends are guilty. But then she explains why this is a good thing: "I'd hate to live in a country in which 50% of the people who are arrested are innocent." Still, despite the guilt of most of her clients, the system is set up to work in their favor.



SUAVE DETECTIVE NICK CHARLES, PLAYED BY WILLIAM POWELL, LOOKS FOR BAD GUYS IN "AFTER THE THIN MAN."

"Somebody said it's better for a hundred guilty people to go free than for one innocent person to be convicted," says Carlyle. "That's the way the system ought to be. But I don't think that guilty people often sneak through. More than 90% plead guilty. For those who go to trial, there is a question of their guilt. It's not usually a question that they'll get off, but that they'll get off with less than five years."

Maureen Barden (A70), an assistant U.S. attorney in Philadelphia who works on gun possession cases, says she's encouraged by what she sees in court: "The jury system works. In my experience of trying cases, only a very small percentage of the time do I think jurors reach the wrong result. They're careful, thorough, they think hard. It's heartening to be a part of that."

Once the verdict is determined, the judge steps in for sentencing. Johnson, the criminal justice professor, outlines the aims of that process: "There are four classic goals of the corrections system: incapacitation, retribution, deterrence, and rehabilitation. If possible, the sentence meets all four goals in the appropriate measures for the particular crime and individual. Incapacitation gets considered first. Then, retribution: how much punishment the person deserves in addition to that. Next is deterrence, and finally rehabilitation."

County Court Judge Pattie Swift (SF82), who works in rural Costilla County, Colorado, finds that the goals fall in a different order in her court. She often relies on the deterrence effect of prison. "There are people who need the shock of jail for a short period of time.

"Judgment has two cups, a cup of justice and a cup of mercy."

—DAVID JOHNSON, A68, PROBATION CHIEF

I send them in for a week. Our local county jail is benign, but still, they're locked up and it's frightening. This is useful for some people who have committed DWIs before and didn't take it seriously."

Swift turns to long-term incapacitation only as a last resort. Her position limits her to passing a two-year sentence. "For people with whom we've tried everything, the last ditch thing is

victim and their families, and gathering information about the accused's prior record and social history to make an evaluation and recommendation.

When he worked in probation, Johnson appreciated this opportunity to influence the judge's decision. "I always remembered that judgment has two cups: a cup of justice and a cup of mercy. How much of each does the defendant get?"



PETER FALK IS HITMAN ABE "KID TWIST" RELES IN THE 1960 GANGLAND FLICK "MURDER, INC."

long-term jail to get them out of society. If they are unable to change, if they have four DWIs, it's the only thing you can do to protect the public."

Johnson discusses the problem of disparity in sentencing: "In sentencing there are no rules to speak of and the judge has virtually complete discretion. Somebody who's convicted of bank robbery in Brooklyn might get probation; for the same crime in Texas he might get 20 years. It's an oddity because everything is rule-driven up to the point of conviction. Once we go to sentencing in criminal matters, the judge is supposed to exercise the wisdom of Solomon."

In today's world, fortunately, Solomon has a consultant. The probation officer conducts a presentence investigation for the judge, reviewing the crime, interviewing the defendant and

BEHIND BARS

A man is sentenced to two years on a southern chain gang for a minor offense. His rebellious manner is met with psychological torment and physical brutality. The guards seem to enjoy their project of breaking his spirit. In the end, they take his life.

—PLOT SUMMARY OF THE 1967 MOVIE, COOL HAND LUKE

This is one area where, unfortunately, the movies have it right. Prison is often a brutal place and prisoner rights are frequently disregarded. Even where efforts are made to protect the inmates both physically and legally, the difficulties of managing a captive population have yet to be satisfactorily addressed.

Margaret Booker (SFG194) directed a state prison library for four years. She says that the system she worked in was set up to protect the prisoners and their rights, but it often didn't work as planned.

"During my training I was told not to pay attention to the justice or injustice of the offender's act or sentence. Missouri tells the same thing to all new offenders as they enter reception and diagnostics: don't talk about your crime to your peers; the staff doesn't need to know either. But that rarely works. Very few can keep their lives private to a degree that would keep them safe or lessen the risks they face in prison."

In her own sphere of influence, Booker saw real-life practice reveal the faulty presumptions of a legal theory intended to safeguard the inmates' rights. "While most offenders use the library for education, entertainment, and enlightenment, every offender in Missouri has access to legal materials," she says. "This is the state's way of providing 'access to courts,' the requirement that offenders be able to represent themselves in their appeals. In other states, access to courts is interpreted differently," Booker explains. "Some have attorneys who travel the system or public librarians who do research for the inmates. Arizona just sold off a huge amount of legal material and now provides paralegals who travel a circuit across the state to assist offenders."

Booker has a dim view of Missouri's approach. "I don't think any sort of justice is given through the collection of materials to those who might be innocent or have been tried inappropriately or irresponsibly. The information and organization is too complex, as is the court system, for the offender population on the whole to navigate."

Booker is pessimistic about the state's inclination to improve the system, given today's political and economic climate. "When I started, prisoners were called prisoners or inmates. Now they're called offenders. In the '80s and '90s we saw a

contraction of prisoner rights. With state budgets in the condition they're in, programs for offenders will be on hold or decreased."

Carlyle, the criminal defense attorney, shares Booker's pessimism and is concerned about how current policy will play out when prisoners return to society: "In my 25 years of practice, there's been pretty much a complete turn from 'incarcerate-punish-rehabilitate' to 'let's show them how mad we are and treat them like we're mad for 20 years and then have them live next door to us.'"

AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Criminals go free, justice proves to be not-so blind, and lawyers and judges make deals...except for one young idealistic lawyer who bucks the system while representing a ruthless judge accused of a brutal rape.

—CAPSULE REVIEW OF THE 1979 MOVIE, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL, FROM MOVIESUNLIMITED.COM

Unlike the corrupt cop, the cynical lawyers, and the jaded judges that are so popular in today's crime stories, *Johnnies in Justice* veer to the idealistic.

When Johnson speaks of his career as a probation officer, he says that the friendships he's maintained with people he's supervised over the years are priceless benefits.

Swift treasures the times when defendants who have complained bitterly about a sentence of alcohol treatment come back for review and say "thank you, it really opened my eyes to see what was wrong."

Barden, who's worked as a federal prosecutor on large scale fraud cases, says her work gives her the opportunity to serve justice. "In many cases, you're vindicating the rights of individuals who've been defrauded. It's very good when you can get justice for somebody who has been stolen from or in another way injured. It's a chance to do the right thing," she says. "That's the luxury of being on this side of the courtroom: the interest of the government is to do justice. That's not always simple, but it is the goal." ❀

CAST OF CHARACTERS

MAUREEN BARDEN (A70)

Assistant U.S. Attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice in Philadelphia. Before becoming a lawyer she worked on the investigation of the Attica prison uprising and the Nixon impeachment.

MARGARET BOOKER (SGI94)

Library services coordinator for the Missouri Department of Corrections in Jefferson City from 1998 to 2001. She is now manager of the Kansas City, Missouri, Public Library, Westport Branch.

ELIZABETH UNGER CARLYLE (A73)

Criminal defense lawyer. She handles everything from speeding tickets to murder trials, doing most of her work with appeals and post-conviction remedies. She is married to the Rev. James Carlyle (A72).

DAVID JOHNSON (A68)

Worked in criminal justice for over 30 years. Retired as chief of federal probation for the state of Maryland, he teaches criminal justice at the University of Baltimore. He is married to Sally Johnson (A65).

PATTIE SWIFT (SF82)

County court judge in Costilla County, Colorado, and municipal judge for the town of San Luis.

COMMENCEMENT

2002

BY MARISSA MORRISON, SFGIO2 (SANTA FE)
AND BARBARA GOYETTE, A73 (ANNAPOLIS)

The graduating seniors—102 in Annapolis and 88 in Santa Fe—chose as their commencement speakers a military historian and a novelist who has produced a series of literary experiments. Rather than present opposing viewpoints on life or on the St. John's experience, the two gave surprisingly close send-offs to the graduates. Their messages contrasted the education a St. John's graduate receives with the vapidness of many aspects of modern culture, and both saw St. John's as supplying the background necessary for a beginning to a life devoted to questioning and thinking.

THE IMPORTANCE OF "THE HUMAN THING" - ANNAPOLIS

At the 210th commencement in Annapolis, 102 undergraduates and 36 Graduate Institute students received their degrees. The day was sunny and bright, the grass was green, the air was still and cool as the parents, family members, and friends gathered on the front lawn. Faculty and students processed from the Great Hall to the click and whirl of cameras and the ceremonial strains of the Carrollton Brass.

President Christopher Nelson and Dean Harvey Flaumenhaft announced the various prizes and awards, including that for best senior essay, which went to Katherine Oehlberg for her essay "A Nature Within and Without: An Inquiry into the Evolution of the Moral Sense."

Seniors had chosen Victor Davis Hanson, who teaches classics at the University of California at Fresno and has published books and columns on military history, as the commencement speaker.

Mr. Hanson stressed universal

human truths that are covered in the Program as those that the graduates will draw upon wherever their lives carry them in the future. "Most of you will ...enter the professions," he said. "Many—I have no doubt of it—shall become rich and powerful. But I am also equally confident that such success will accrue more because you shall be deft and experienced about what Thucydides called 'the human thing,' and resigned about the way humans think and act, rather than because you were simply adept at a particular skill."

In a perhaps unintended allusion to the famous (among Johnnies) admissions proclamation "The following teachers will return to St. John's next year: Plato, Sophocles, Kant, Tolstoy, etc.," Mr. Hanson said that St. John's has given the graduates "a reservoir of learning from great men and women. These are your intellectual mentors, your friends for life. Each hour, each day from now to the end they will be there with you—to remind you, chastise you, and enlighten that what you experience is neither novel nor unique."

And considering the great books authors as mentors, and their words as universal human truths, Mr. Hanson suggested, is helpful in evaluating current situations that citizens need to understand. "When others suggest that educated citizens should not profess patriotism or think of their culture as unique and worth defending, you will remind them of Aeschylus at Marathon and Socrates at Delium. And when you despair that men with money, degrees, status, and fame can be petty rather than noble, and are as likely as the illiterate and impoverished to steal and defame, Juvenal, Dante, and Swift will laugh along with you." A St. John's education, he suggested, makes those who have undergone it "empirical and inductive, open to truth when it comes from the uncouth and enemies—and resistant to lies when they come from the

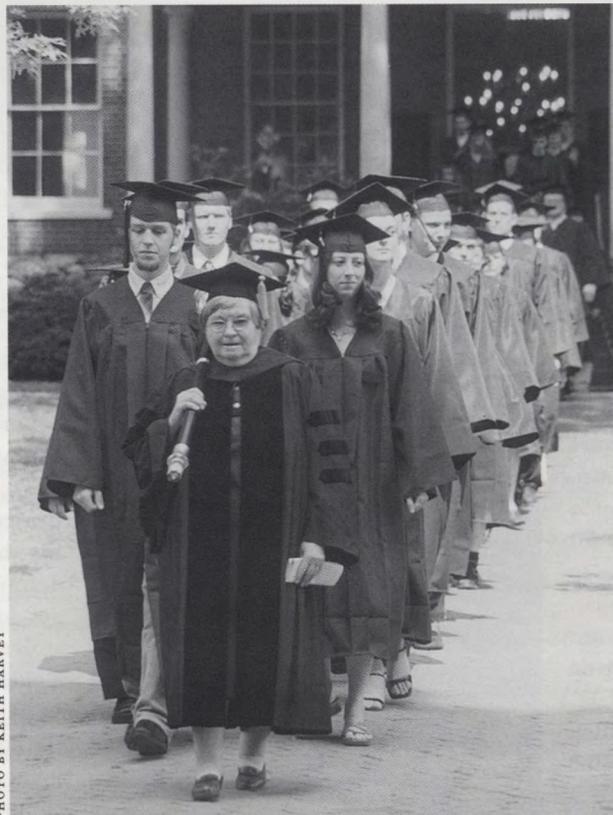


PHOTO BY KEITH HARVEY

“Open to truth...resistant to lies.”

VICTOR DAVIS HANSON



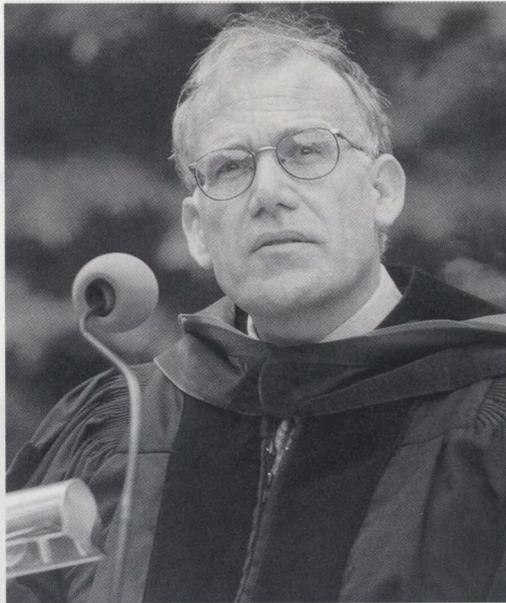
TERI THOMSON RANDALL

EVA BRANN LEADS THE PROCESSION TO FRONT CAMPUS IN ANNAPOLIS (LEFT), WHILE IN SANTA FE, GENEVIEVE GIDDINGS LIGHTS THE PLACITA WITH HER SMILE (ABOVE).

sweet and friends. You will not just ponder and equivocate, but decide, judge, and act.”

Mr. Hanson used an extended Homeric image to discuss what the future might hold for the graduates, and what dangers. He characterized their journey as like that of Odysseus and referred to “suitors feasting away at our society’s once ample social capital and spiritual reserves” as those the graduates would have to confront. He warned against the Charybdis of the Right, which he said “assures that the university and education itself are simply to be utilitarian and commercial—certifications of dexterity with spread sheets, glibness with the law, or mere master of regulations, tables, charts, and graphs.” And he identified the Scylla of the Left as “the idea, now almost universal, that the purpose of education is therapeutic, to change what words mean, to deny how people act, to create absolute equality of results, rather than of opportunity in the here and now—or else!”

Acknowledging the power of education, Mr. Hanson urged the audience to use wisdom wisely. He likened knowledge’s strength to that of Tolkein’s One Ring, whose great power was so alluring that it ruined lives and threatened races. “Education used foully for a good cause, is nevertheless foul, and thus the cause not so good after all. Remember instead the first and oldest commandments of the humble Greeks—know yourself/nothing too much/grow old learning.” He suggested that some time spent in small pursuits—away from the bigness of our present age’s government, corporations, and overriding materialism—is valuable. “Seek out, or perhaps at least protect and enhance—if only for a year or two of your odyssey—those sand bars and reefs that are washed over but not quite, not quite yet submerged—the love of Greek and Latin, the knowledge of the mason and woodworker, the family nursery and small farm, the horseman and the shoemaker, the town of 2,000, and the art and music of rural America...Like your Great Books, these unobtrusive people, things, and memories—forgotten by Wal-Mart and unknown at Blockbuster—also possess wisdom—learning that we need in our present hour of peril against enemies



HANSON THE CLASSICIST

cruel and medieval.”

Mr. Hanson closed with a promise. As a farmer, student of Latin and Greek, resident of a rural community, writer, and “as one who at times has failed at all that and so much more still”—he promised to join the graduates to “keep alive the ancient education that we still know to be good and necessary—and can alone keep the melodious, but deadly, Sirens at bay.”

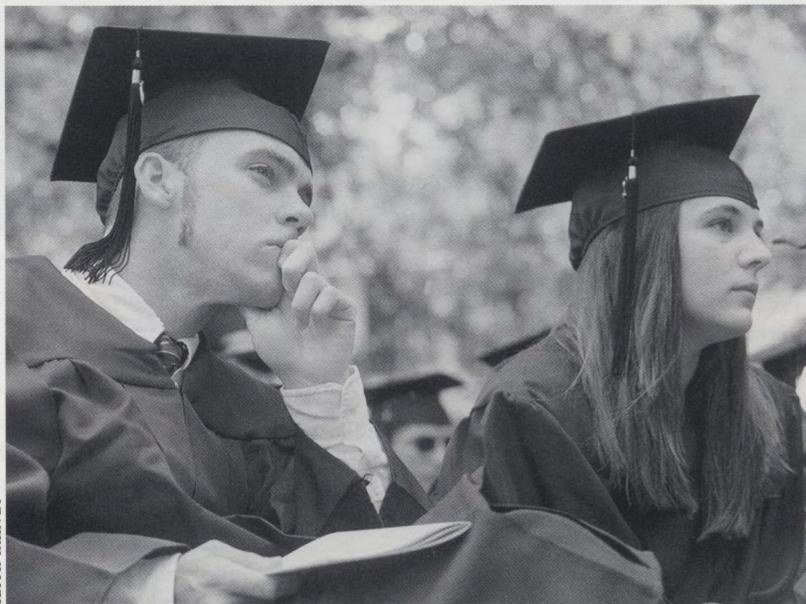
POINTS OF DEPARTURE, NOT THE JOURNEY’S END – SANTA FE

By graduation day in Santa Fe on May 18, the fear and sadness that characterized the early part of the academic year after September 11 had given way to a feeling of jubilation. The brilliant sun shining above the Meem Library Placita and a lively commencement speech by John Barth added to the bright spirit of the day.

Barth is a Johns Hopkins University professor emeritus and a novelist who delights in literary experimentalism while engaging readers with the power of his storytelling abilities.

In a speech titled “The Tragic View of Liberal Education,” Mr. Barth praised the St. John’s program for permitting discourse within a shared frame of reference richer and more stable than popular culture—which is perhaps all the students at some departmentalized institutions have in common. He also presented the downside to an education based on a limited selection of Great Books. While attending Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Mr. Barth often heard debates over the liberal arts program at nearby St. John’s College in Annapolis. According to one half-serious opinion, “the problem with the Annapolis curriculum was that it left out not only all the bad books—which, like bad art, may be indispensable to defining and appreciating the good—but also all the arguably great books that happen to disagree with the ones in the canon.” He noted that no four-year undergraduate survey could include all the books one ought to read.

To illustrate how impossible it is for a student to actually read everything, Mr. Barth referred to one of his fellow undergraduates who was said to have done just that. “To this day,” Mr. Barth joked, “he is scarcely able to complete a sen-



tence, much less publish a coherent essay, because every word he utters sets off so many synaptic hot-links in his mind that he has difficulty getting from subject to verb to object, astray in the hypertextuality of his splendid erudition.”

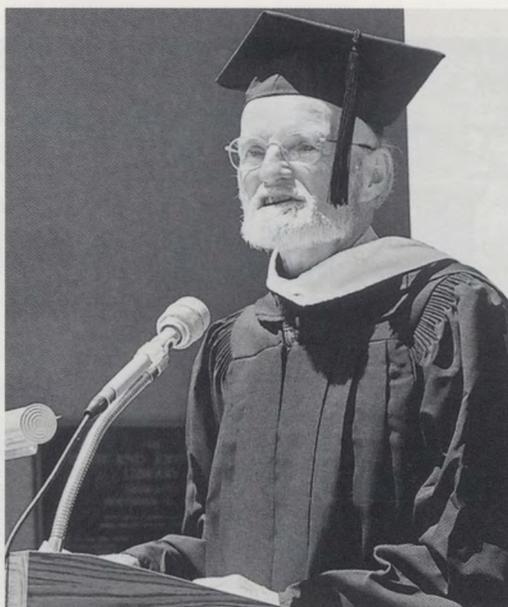
The tragedy of a liberal education, according to Mr. Barth, lies in the realization that one cannot read—or learn—everything. “Since time, attention, energy, and opportunity are all finite, we must radically exclude and delimit if we are to learn anything at all well; yet in so doing we may very possibly leave out things that, had we discovered them or they us, might have been keys to the treasure that we were scarcely aware we were seeking,” he said.

Mr. Barth lamented that only the books he has actually read can make an impression on him. As a fiction writer, he wishes that he could read every other written work. Without reading every description of the dawn and the sea that has ever been recorded on paper, how can he know whether his own descriptions are unique and valuable? However, he comforts himself with the fact that the number of possible word combinations, like the number of stars in the galaxy, is “finite but astronomically large.”

Mr. Barth noted that the St. John’s program list is a good starting point for one’s education. The real reason for celebrating commencement is not the completion of an education, but rather the start of a lifetime of exploring new ideas.

Santa Fe president John Balkcom gave an overview of the challenges this academic year had brought, with September 11 having impacted our lives and the nature of our college community. Citing Virginia Woolf, who wrote, “One of the signs of passing youth is the birth of a sense of fellowship with other human beings as we take our place among them,” Mr. Balkcom noted that what the faculty and staff observed this year was the emergence of a greater sense of community among all of our learners. “We come together to celebrate these graduates for the learning they have shared and the community they have created, for their taking a place now among the wider community of this human race.”

He made lighthearted references to many seniors and Graduate Insti-



TERI THOMSON RANDALL

BARTH THE NOVELIST

tute students he had encountered during the year, and talked about community events such as the holiday concert, the presentation of Senior Essays in February, and Reality Weekend—when hundreds of paper flowers decorated trees and bushes throughout campus.

The commencement address of Santa Fe Dean David Levine reminded students that liberal education is a great gift. The college gives this gift, he said, in the hope that its graduates will develop proportionally in relation to challenging thinkers; experience inspiration in their own capacities for original thought; develop new capacities to ascend to undiscovered places; become strengthened in facing the toughest human questions; grow their own sense of responsibility; become more self-resourceful; and achieve a heightened fullness of inde-

pendence. “Make us proud,” Mr. Levine urged the graduates. “Honor this education with lives of distinction.”

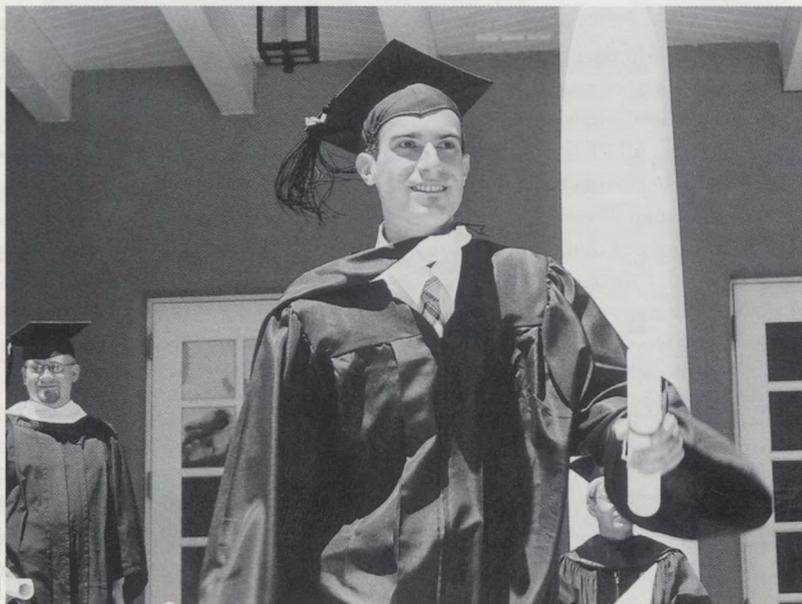
The class of 2002 included 38 candidates for the Bachelor of Arts degree and 25 candidates for the Master of Arts in Liberal Arts degree. The graduates hailed from 33 U.S. states, as well as from Israel and Canada.

For the first time in the history of the college, the Senior Class Gift Committee achieved 100% participation from all members of the Class of 2002. Neither campus had ever accomplished this feat. Ms. Abercrombie and Ms. Emma Wells presented the senior gift to the president, accompanied by a swell of applause from the audience, including loud accolades from class members. The class gift will purchase The Classics Film Collection for Meem Library.

Graduates honored with awards and prizes included Benjamin Lorch, who received the Medal for Academic Excellence. The

medal is offered by the Board of Visitors and Governors and was presented by board member Dick Morris. Anna Canning and Marie-Monique Wentzell shared the Richard D. Weigle Prize for the best senior essay. Among the Graduate Institute graduates, Courtney Manson was acknowledged for her excellent essay. ❖

The full text of both commencement addresses is on the web: www.sjca.edu for Annapolis and www.sjcsf.edu for Santa Fe.



TERI THOMSON RANDALL

REMEMBRANCES OF PRANKS PAST

BY SUSAN BORDEN (A87)

It's a warm night in early spring. Students sit in seminar reading Euripides, Descartes, and Adam Smith. They work their way through the text and follow the conversation closely, but spirits are running a little high. They've heard the rumors, they've seen the signs. Their minds occasionally drift. Is tonight the night?

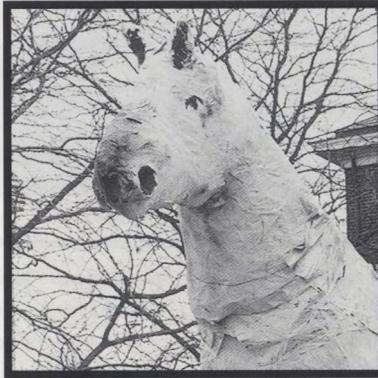
As the first hour comes to a close, attention is drawn outside the classroom. A door slams, laughter bounces down the hall. A few minutes later a team of seniors bursts through the door. Books slam shut, tutors are escorted from the room. Senior prank has begun.

It wasn't always like this. Senior prank started as a daytime event; the prank was the seniors' way of shutting down the college. Over the years it has blossomed into a 24-hour ritual, beginning with the nighttime break-in, following with a skit and dance party, and continuing the next day with games and a campus-wide picnic for students, faculty, and staff.

For the original prank, pulled in 1964 and talked about to this day, seniors removed all the chairs from the classrooms and tutor offices and stored them in the crawl space in the basement of Mellon. Tutor Samuel Kutler (A54) remembers it well: "I walked to my classroom in McDowell with a prospective freshman and her mother, who were scheduled to sit in on our mathematics tutorial. As we entered the room, I told them to please be seated, but when I looked up the students were sitting on the table. All chairs had been removed from the entire building. I told the students that we were behind and I would hold class anyway. Then President Weigle appeared. He was not amused, and he announced that there would be no classes until the chairs were returned. I shrugged my shoulders, turned to the mother and the prospective student, said that there were some good liberal arts schools in Ohio, and went home."

That simple prank unleashed a legacy of mischief that has driven class after class to put time and energy into creating a memorable prank.

The class of '68 distinguished itself with a four-part prank: all classrooms were locked from the inside, the lobby of FSK was transformed into a used car lot, a thirty-foot purple flag reading "Class of '68" in red letters flew from the flagpole, and—the *piece de résistance*—nearly two dozen steel-belted radi-



als were stacked on the flagpole, a technical feat that was as challenging to remove as it was to install.

The flagpole-tire stunt, explains Alec Himwich, was the brain child of David Roberts. "He devised a contraption with two wooden Vs oriented perpendicularly to a long wood pole. One V was at the top of the pole and the other somewhat below and opposite the first. On this pole were fasteners that corresponded to those on the rope used to raise and lower the flag. The device was attached to the rope and a tire was placed on the upper V.

Guide ropes were attached to the lower V. Then the whole thing was raised up by means of the flag rope. During the hoisting, the guide ropes were used for stability. When the tire finally was above the top of the flag pole the guide ropes were used to orient the tire so that when the device was lowered, the flag pole would be inside the tire.

"The whole procedure was complicated by a gusty wind," recalls Himwich. "Also, the operators were not the steadiest since some of them were already imbibing in anticipation of a day of celebration."

The class of '75 produced an elaborate skit—"West Street Story," in which Tony sang "Pure Reason" to the tune of "Maria" and Ben Milner (HA97) was portrayed as the campus' Officer Krupke. They also put bookplates that read "Gift of the class of 1975" in all the books in the King William Room.

Jason Walsh (A85) remembers the class of '82's *Alice in Wonderland* prank: "It was quite remarkable. Amusement rides were set up on lower back campus, seemingly while we were in seminar. Seminars were of course interrupted by the march here, Alice, and the hatter, who led us to the rabbit hole (in the auditorium stage) down into the Wonderland that was set up in the hallways of the basement, through the now-deserted Mellon classroom hallways and out by the Planetarium to the waiting amusements. It was remarkably choreographed and seemed quite magical."

"Underclassmen were required to dance the lobster quadrille in FSK lobby," recalls Peter Green (A84) of the Alice prank. "The next day we played croquet using pink flamingoes for mallets."

The 1984 prank took *the Canterbury Tales* as its theme. Seminars were interrupted by knights, nuns, maidens, monks, a



ANNAPOLIS' CLASS OF 1988 BUILT A PAPIER MACHÉ TROJAN HORSE TO RULE THE QUAD ON PRANK DAY.

jester, and a barmaid wench. Dan Knight and Duke Hughes converted the fireplace room of the coffee shop into an English tavern. Grady Harris, as the Pardoner, stood on the steps of the quad presenting students with penances for the seven deadly sins. For the sin of pride, they were told to dance later that evening with everyone who asked; for sloth, they were to dance five dances in a row. Minstrels entertained the wayfarers outside McDowell and luminaries lit the path from the base of the quad to the gym. There John Ertle presided as archbishop and head of the ecclesiastical court, charging each tutor with a sin (see sidebar).

For the class of '88's Odyssey prank, class members built in secret an 18-foot-high Trojan Horse of wood, chicken wire, and papier mache. John Lavery and Greg Ferguson constructed the horse's frame and shaped its outlines with chicken wire. Karin Johns supervised the papier mache effort, using 75 pounds of flour and endless reams of newspaper to sculpt the body. Several dozen seniors worked on the project under Johns' direction.

Students led out of Mellon and McDowell for the

start of that prank were confronted with the enormous beast. Ele Hamburger (A87) remembers its demise: "A storm hit after the horse had been up a few days. I remember it being blown up so it reared on its hind feet and then collapsed." However, she adds, "I am not entirely sure this is not a false memory, since it is so cinematic in my mind's eye."

The 2002 prank included a return to the mischief-making aspect of the tradition. Assistant Dean Judith Seeger says that the seniors sent letters to a number of students saying that the state of Maryland now required random urine testing for drugs. The letters were accompanied by small paper cups and recipients were instructed to bring a sample to the director of Student Services by 3 p.m. on prank day. Seeger reports that no one showed up at the Student Services office, but she heard that several prankees visited the health center that day.

Pranksters also ticketed every car in the college parking lots. "After a few calls from disgruntled drivers, I walked around and removed them myself," says Seeger. "Except for the one on college president Chris Nelson's car." ❖

PRANK SKITS: A RETROSPECTIVE

by Chris Denny (A93)

1991A:

"Operation Dorm Storm" Fielding Dupuy's haunting portrayal of a crazed army officer shocked 90's audiences with its stark portrayal of a nuclear apocalypse, as well as a campus without Chase-Stone. The special effects of a cameraperson running forward while shooting with a Camcorder in order to simulate a smart-bomb brought the cinematography of SJC Senior Pranks into a new era of artistic brilliance. Rated PG13 (language, and lots of it).

1992SF:

"Oscar Night" Matthew Kelty stars in a hilarious parody of Hollywood's wildest night of the year. Rated R (language, sexual situations and potty humor involving large bowel movements).

1993A:

"It's a Wonderful Life" Starring Tom Lind as Clarence and Millicent Roberts as God, this touching story involved Devin Rushing's horrible nightmare of a world in which SJC was transformed into an "overpriced basketball school." With Walter Sterling, Sr. reduced to lip-synching "Achy-Breaky Heart" at Marmaduke's and a demonic Andre Barbera (played by the dashing Colin Meeder) bent on reducing Western Civilization to rubble, only the fearless James Beall can rescue SJC, and a terrorized Patricia Locke (Deirdre Crosse), from oblivion. Rated SJC (wicked nasty satire and monogrammed female gludii maximi).

A BUDDHIST IN THE BOOKSTORE

*Bookstore manager Andrea d'Amato
brings an awareness of Eastern thought to Santa Fe.*

What makes a good college bookstore? Surely, as with any other kind of bookstore, a comprehensive selection of books, current as well as classic and attractively displayed, ought to be near the top of anyone's list. Hospitable environment would also seem a must, encouraging the customer—student or teacher—to linger and browse. Then there are the less obvious attributes such as efficient management practices . . . but wait. Shouldn't the more relevant question be not what makes a good college bookstore but who?

Untold numbers of the St. John's community in Santa Fe would have only to point to Andrea d'Amato, who has been manager of the bookstore for more than 20 years, for the answer.

Personal affection and professional admiration for this unusual woman—she is a novice Buddhist priest and mother of an adopted fifteen-year-old girl as well as successful businessperson—comprise their views in more or less equal proportion.

"Bookstore people are special people," says Georgia Knight, who has been a tutor at St. John's since 1974. "Andrea personifies the best of them. She has been a close friend for many years and unflaggingly helpful to me. She has made books a real adventure. She helps me trip over things I wasn't necessarily looking for. But what I admire most are her enthusiasm, persuasiveness, and generosity of spirit. She radiates friendship."

Ralph Swentzell, who joined the St. John's faculty 35 years ago, credits Andrea's management skills for the "exceptional" qualities of the bookstore and also declares that the whole Eastern Classics program, which he and a colleague, Bruce Perry, launched as an experiment only 12 years ago, "owes its existence" to Andrea. He explains: "I was an amateur at first, assigned to Chinese language. Andrea began auditing my class of 10 or 11 students and got very excited. She helped us work out the language as a computer program. Eventually we had a full

lexicon in front of us and translated Confucius, Lao-tse, Chinese poetry, and other works.

"But it was a very tumultuous affair bringing the Eastern Studies program into being. The college was ethnocentric in those days. In that environment we kept asking 'How (in this institution of great books) can you ignore Eastern studies?' The bookstore was a not-so-subtle influence on the college's decision to adopt the program, with Andrea making sure that there were great books on Eastern studies available and prominently displayed on the front table."

It would seem natural to assume that her close association with the burgeoning Eastern Classics program directly influenced Andrea's decision to become a Buddhist, although such was not entirely the case. Working in a bookstore, however, was a serendipitous situation for her at a time of great personal crisis.

"It was a case of having ready access to books that bore on my overwhelming need for a way out of my suffering," she says. "I was seeking spiritual enlightenment for my pain, for my great heartache. My heart, in fact, broke open to Buddhism as soon as I started reading from a list of texts I had encountered through suggested Eastern Classics texts. I began with the 'Acts of the Buddha' by a second-century Indian writer named Asvaghosa. It was the first time I had encountered the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism and as soon as I read those I thought Wow! This is what I've been looking for. This is my medicine. This addresses exactly what I'm feeling."

Andrea immersed herself in the great primary sources while continuing with her job. "I realized that this was not a way out of suffering but I had to start meditating. If you want to realize it you have to sit. You have to. I read enough Buddhism to know that it cannot just be read about. I learned that in order to benefit from it you need to practice. One of the main practices is Zazen, which is sitting practice. So I sought a meditation teacher."

After many years of sitting, Buddhism became essential to Andrea. In December of 2000, she shaved her head to become a priest, a novice, she explains, in the Zen Buddhist belief, with its strong traditions of meditation and honoring of ancestors.

A novice priest carries forward the form of the practice. The tradition Andrea practices is Japanese Soto Zen, which is based on the four noble truths. The differences in the forms of Buddhism lie in the ritual, the services, the practices. The Tibetan tradition is very rich iconographically, with colorful temples, painted demons on the walls, and beautiful images. The Japanese tradition is very stark, sparse and beautiful, but very simple. "A priest is trained in the form—how you approach the altar, how the incense is offered, which way you turn from the altar, how you hold your hands during the service. Since I am a detailed person the Japanese tradition suits me well," says Andrea. "It's all in the details. God is in the details. A priest can transmit and carry the form to the next generation. I don't know if I will arrive at that level of service, as I am in training and will be for many years, but that is what I am doing—paying close attention to details."

Andrea has made pilgrimages to China and Tibet, where she circumambulated the holiest of mountains. Her hope was to manifest the dharma more in her life. After that experience, she decided to become a priest as a way to be more involved in Buddhism.

To become a priest in this tradition, Andrea had to create her own robe by hand, though she hadn't done any sewing since home economics in seventh grade. She also copied by hand sacred texts from the 13th century. And, she had to shave her head.

The robe, an okesa, is comprised of patches of material that she gathered from family and friends. With an intricate design, it is a personal project. The pattern derives from the Buddha, who, standing with his disciple, said he wanted a robe with a pattern after the rice fields. "All the stitching shows on the outside and every stitch is a prayer," says Andrea. "Not something that could be done while watching TV or doing anything else. It took a lot of concentration, time, and effort, accompanied by a candle, incense, and prayer." The robe was about

three-and-a-half months in the making.

Andrea made a pilgrimage to the Chinese temples that Dogen (the founder of the Japanese line of Buddhism) traveled to in the 13th century. "I was able to sew on my robe in the very room dedicated to Dogen, originally a 900-room monastery Tien Tong. This is of deep importance to me because Dogen is part of the

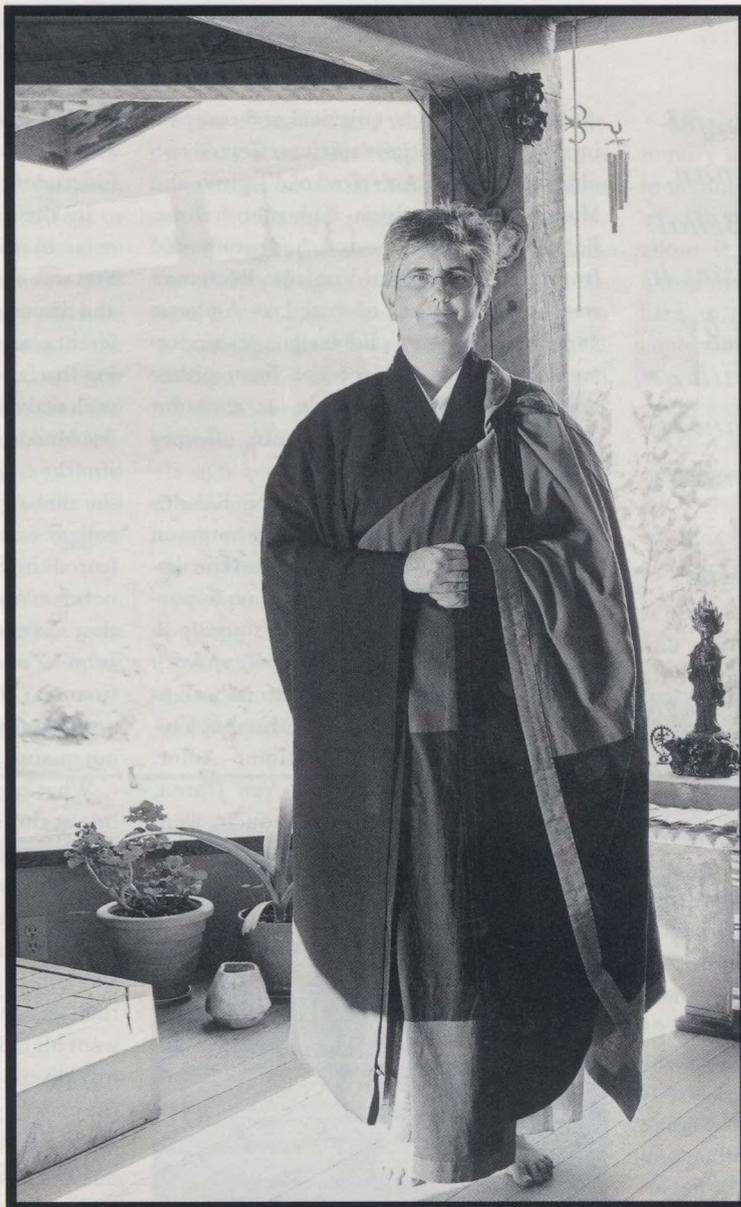
direct lineage," says Andrea. "Dogen found the true dharma again, and brought that tradition to Japan. Every morning we put the robe on our head, and with our chants we vow to liberate all human beings."

Little in Andrea's early background, except perhaps a youthful restlessness, a dissatisfaction with the way her life was going, would seem to augur what appears to be its present happy resolution. She stopped attending the Catholic Church while in high school and dropped out of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst (where she worked part-time in a bookstore) because, she says, "I had too much living to do." She became active in the women's movement and considered for a while opening up a feminist bookstore somewhere with a friend. During a visit to Santa Fe, she answered an ad in *The Santa Fe New Mexican* for an assistant's position in the St. John's College bookstore. She became its manager in 1981.

"The bookstore, along with my colleagues and friends," she says, "has been my anchor, the stabilizing fact of my life in Santa Fe. If I am credited with helping to make it an important part of

the college life I'm grateful for what it has given back to me."

She enjoys spending weekends with her daughter Nandita at home in Taos. With this melding of family, career, and belief, it is no wonder that she considers herself, as she says, not just content, but a person on the path of awakening as well. Says Andrea, "At night we say, 'Let me respectfully remind you...Do not squander your life.' " ❀



TERI THOMSON RANDALL

EVERY STITCH IS A PRAYER: ANDREA D'AMATO WEARS THE ROBE SHE MADE WHEN SHE BECAME A BUDDHIST PRIEST.

BEYOND THE BARR-BUCHANAN MYTH

REVIEW BY JOHN VAN DOREN, A47

Radical Visions: Stringfellow Barr, Scott Buchanan, and Their Efforts on Behalf of Education and Politics in the Twentieth Century by Charles A. Nelson. With an Introduction by William H. McNeill. Bergin & Garvey, Westport, CT, 2001

Everybody connected with St. John's, and many outside it, know that Stringfellow Barr and Scott Buchanan were the founders, in 1937, of the Program by which the college has since been known. Some are aware that when they left St. John's, both men worked together on other projects, less well defined, having to do with what might be called the state of the world, and that after many wanderings they came to the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions in California, where both served for a time and where Buchanan worked until he died in 1968.

But who were they? How did they come to think they should do the things they did? What did they seek to accomplish by doing them, nearly always together as friends and colleagues in a relationship which, beginning at Oxford in 1919, lasted till Buchanan's death? These are matters most people don't know much about. We are thus indebted to Charles Nelson (class of 1945) for having written this fine book, which provides an account of them that will be instructive, even essential, not only to those who cannot remember those years, but also to those who can.

Barr and Buchanan made an unlikely combination: the one, hot tempered and

eloquent, the other, quizzical and complex in all he said. Yet their spirits reflected two old traditions in America, of Virginia and Massachusetts, which had met before. Barr, inclined to history, had graduated from the University of Virginia; Buchanan was a philosopher, educated at Amherst and Harvard, who said he got an understanding of his subject not from either school but only afterwards, as assistant director of the People's Institute, offering adult education, in New York.

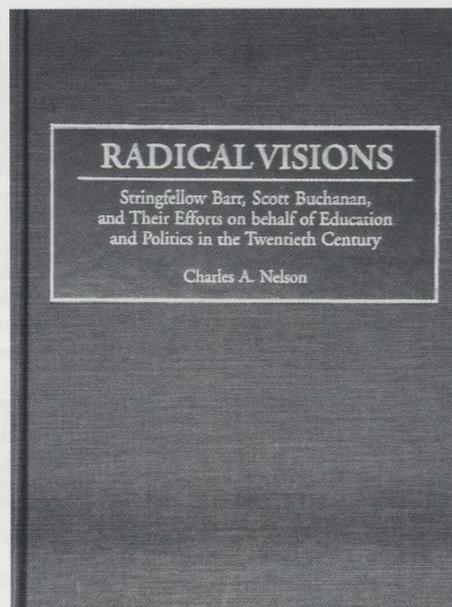
At Oxford, where they were Rhodes Scholars, they found they had a common interest in speculative thought and the discussion of ideas. Buchanan went on to pursue both and discovered their sources in the Great Books, which he took up with students at the People's Institute as well as with some of the faculty at Columbia University, among them Mortimer Adler, Richard McKeon, and Mark Van Doren. Barr, with whom he kept in touch, went back to Virginia, where he was an immensely successful but unrepresentative

teacher who sat on his desk in a green suit and purple shirt and talked basic texts with his students.

By the end of the 1920s, both men had come to think that American higher education was badly in need of the kind of reading and discussion they were carrying on in different places. To this end, and notwithstanding the failure of an early effort to institute such activities by Buchanan's friend Alexander Meiklejohn at the University of Wisconsin, the two men joined forces at Virginia in the mid-1930s and formulated a plan for a college within the college there which anticipated the St. John's Program. But Virginia never adopted this, and it was only when they were approached by the trustees of St. John's, a school in grave academic and financial difficulties, that they found an opportunity which they accepted, not without qualms, to practice what they preached.

What happened there is known to everyone at this college, or if it isn't, Mr. Nelson will recall it for us. Within four years, the Program was recognized everywhere in the country as a striking innovation, supported in some quarters, disapproved of in others. The effort seemed to have succeeded. But then came the war and the student body went off to fight, while much of the new faculty disappeared. Barr and Buchanan kept the college going with inadequate funds and students who had not finished high school, but the effort was exhausting. They were further tried by the attempt of the Navy to acquire the college campus for expansion of the Naval Academy, a struggle that ended only in 1946 when the Navy gave up. By then both men, besides being weary, had soured on the college's prospects in Annapolis and decided to leave, rejecting funds offered for its continuance there, to the dismay of the trustees.

In truth the two had come to think that something more than St. John's was needed



“The two came to think that something more than St. John’s was needed to make sense of the post-war world...”

to make sense of the post-war world they saw emerging—something perhaps with undergraduate, adult education, and research facilities combined. Then they realized, or thought they did, that even this was less than what the times required, which was a new politics and a new technological and social order. Their subsequent involvement in the Foundation for World Government, their separate sojourns in Israel and India, and their last brief interval together at the California Center—years in which they both wrote interesting and important books and pamphlets—can be seen as efforts to suggest ways in which these changes could be realized. Nothing they did was successful in terms of tangible accomplishment, but most of it was prescient in its focus on what we now recognize as world realities.

Was there a divide between what the two

did for education and what they tried to do in other areas later? Superficially, yes, but in essence, no. From the first, as young men with intellectual interests and capacities, they thought the world was in need of a better understanding of itself than its education gave it. St. John’s was an attempt to provide this. But the forces of technological change and social upheaval that appeared after the Second World War seemed to require a different kind of examination, though with the same objective. Barr and Buchanan, and the associates they got to work with them, sought to discover for themselves and explain to others what the underlying problems of the world were, looking foolish to those who thought “something should be done at once” about these, but seeming wiser now as we realize most of them are still there.

All along, both men maintained that inquiry and discussion were propaedeutic to action. Every enterprise they started or tried to start had something of the seminar about it. Always they found themselves questioning first formulations and digging back to the root of things, so far as they could find it. In that sense they seemed to live the life of this college wherever they went, and partly it was so. But in another sense it was the other way around. That is the lesson of this book. Unique though it is, the college imitates something greater than itself. It is but a station of the active intellect, nurturing in its given way an abiding interest in things brought to it by two who were bound on a common odyssey, a concern that comes only (if I may change my figure) from those on lean horses and fat donkeys whose journey never ends. ✦

SHORT REVIEWS OF ALUMNI BOOKS

By the staff of The College

A PRIEST’S JOURNAL

Victor Lee Austin (SF78)

Church Publishing Incorporated

Austin writes about his ministry as a parish priest in a small town in upstate New York, about his work as a theologian, and about the intersection of the ordinary concerns and profound questions that priest and parish share and explore.

KILLER IN THE ATTIC: AND STILL MORE TALES OF CLEVELAND WOE

John Stark Bellamy II (A71)

Gray & Company

This book of Cleveland murders and disas-

ters fits well with Bellamy’s other Cleveland crime books: *The Corpse in the Cellar*, *The Maniac in the Bushes*, and *They Died Crawling*.

100 NAMES OF MARY: STORIES AND PRAYERS

Anthony F. Chiffolo (AG194)

St. Anthony Messenger Press

Calling upon Scripture, the writings of the early Church, the pronouncements of the saints, papal statements, and recent biblical and theological scholarship, this book provides historical and theological explanations of the origins of one hundred of Mary’s most popular and intriguing names. Each of the names includes both traditional and newly-written prayers of intercession to Mary.

THE GOLDEN AGE: A ROMANCE OF THE FAR FUTURE

John C. Wright (A84)

Tor Books

In this well-received science fiction novel,

Phaethon, of Radamanthus House, attends a party at his family mansion to celebrate the thousand-year anniversary of the High Transcendence. There he meets an old man who accuses him of being an impostor and then a being from Neptune who claims to be an old friend. The Neptunian tells him that essential parts of his memory were removed and stored by the very government that Phaethon believes to be wholly honorable. Phaethon embarks upon a quest across the solar system to recover his memory and learn what crime he planned that warranted such preemptive punishment.

Periodically, *The College* will list or review alumni books. Please send notice of books published or review copies (which will be donated to the library’s alumni author collection) for consideration to: The College Magazine, St. John’s College, Box 2800, Annapolis, MD 21404.

STATISTICS VS. PTOLEMY

*Has St. John's made the right choices for the math tutorial?
Alumni in the corporate world discuss the program.*

BY SUSAN BORDEN, A87

High up in McDowell Hall, math tutorials work their way through Euclid, Ptolemy, Newton, and Lobachevsky. Meanwhile, in a large corporation in Washington, D.C., three recent St. John's graduates are doing the work of computer science PhDs. Was it the symmetry of the spheres, the ingenuity of the ecliptic, the lucidity of Newton's lemmas that prepared them for this demanding work?

Their boss, Eric Rosenblatt (A74), says no.

Rosenblatt, a vice president at Fannie Mae, began hiring Johnnies in 2000 and currently has a hand in the careers of eight Johnnies who work at Fannie Mae, the secondary market enterprise that makes mortgage money available for lenders. He expects to hire more Johnnies.

His original decision to take a chance on the St. John's grads was in part because of a lingering affection for his alma mater, but mostly because he thought it made good business sense. "Corporations live and die on good labor. I get paid because people who work for me make good decisions," Rosenblatt says. "I decided that St. John's would be a filter for employment. The students are intelligent and motivated. Although Fannie Mae has incredibly high standards, programming is something that, if you're smart and you really want to do it, you probably can."

Rosenblatt continues to do most of his hiring at the annual meetings of the Allied Social Science Association; the staff he finds there are PhDs, which he says are simple to hire because PhDs tend to meet his criteria. But they're also expensive and not always willing to do the simple charts and tables that convey the most insights. He points with pride to Jon Lawless (A00) and Brian Shea (A00), who started working just after they graduated. "Those two are already competitive with PhDs," he says. "They started at around \$50,000, but I'll tell you something: they were worth more. I'm sending them to grad school and over time their earnings and opportunities will climb."

Although Rosenblatt has developed a win-win arrangement for Fannie Mae and St. John's, he finds himself frustrated by what he sees as the limitations of the St. John's math program.

He says that the program's lack of emphasis on mathematical mastery is a significant and unnecessary deficiency in an otherwise fine education. It cuts many graduates off from entering a

number of careers that would be of interest to Johnnies. "Students at St. John's don't have the typical math background of college graduates entering the social sciences. Sociology, experimental psychology, economics—these are all fields Johnnies would enjoy," he says. "The prerequisites are a few years of calculus, statistics, maybe linear algebra. If they don't have it, it seems like a daunting hill to climb, one more thing to keep them from targeting a career objective they would find satisfying and do well in. And if you want to go into engineering or the hard sciences, you're just in the hole. You avoid making the decision to undertake the work that graduate school would require and then it gets to be too late."

Recently retired Annapolis placement director Karen Krieger says that a long-term undertaking of her office was to make sure that students—from as early as their prospective visit—know that the St. John's curriculum must be supplemented by additional courses for students seeking careers in math and science. "Students have long known this is the strategy in medicine, and now there's a growing understanding that this is the case in other fields. Once you get your education at St. John's, you then go back and pick up your required courses," says Krieger.

"Getting enough math for careers is easy to do," says Annapolis dean Harvey Flaumenhaft. "A number of students go on to careers in math and science. For example, several recent graduates are now studying astrophysics at George Mason University. "It's true that we don't do statistics, but our students can go to the community college and take elementary statistics for a semester. If we did statistics, we'd have to give up something else. Now don't get me wrong. The absence of their treatment does not mean that statistics are not important. There are a lot of important things we don't study here. Not only things we should do, but things that it's an outrage not to do. We can't do everything—we have to make choices."

THE MATH GAP

A pack of recent Johnnie graduates working at Fannie Mae go to lunch and—no surprise—a seminar breaks out. They're discussing Rosenblatt's ideas and talk turns to Annapolis' calculus manual (a brief handbook presenting the rudiments of calculus as done with more contemporary notation and notions). Using the manual is one of the few points of universal agreement, but the concord is not positive. The alumni are frustrated that the manual is neither one thing nor another—not an original text, but not a

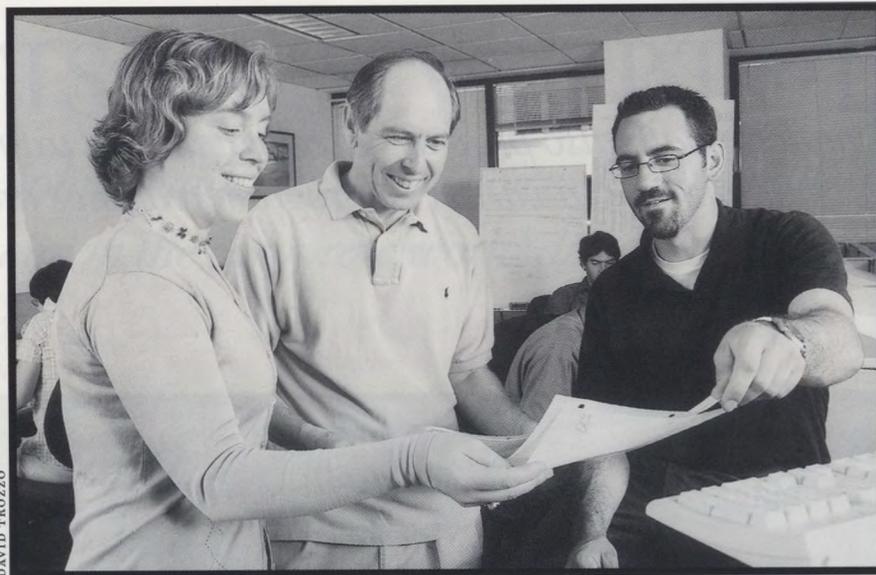
“Distilled modern math also provides excellent mental training, also integrates and reinforces a variety of program readings and labs.”

ERIC ROSENBLATT, A74



DAVID TROZZO

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE FANNIE MAE CAMPUS: ERIC ROSENBLATT, MISHA HALL, AND JOHN LAWLESS ARE A FEW OF THE JOHNNIES WHO WORK FOR THE SECONDARY MORTGAGE ENTERPRISE.



DAVID TROZZO

textbook either, offering just two or three problems to illustrate each concept.

John Lawless, now a Fannie Mae economist working toward a master's of finance at George Washington University (paid for by Fannie Mae), suggests pages of additional problems to supplement classroom discussion. "The people with me in graduate school are not that smart," he says. "The advantage they have is that they've seen a lot of this stuff before. They have a broad exposure to basic math."

Lawless illustrates his grad-school handicap by bringing up the simple operation of multiplying exponents as part of an equation. "Of course I know how to do it. It's simple. But I always have to take a second to remind myself how to do it. This makes high level math that much more difficult, having to translate such small things each time."

Rosenblatt knows exactly what Lawless means. He now has a PhD in finance, which he started working on at the age of 35. "I was always translating," he says. "Math never became my language."

Flaumenhaft (not at the lunch, but commenting later) points out the trade-offs St. John's makes. "I'm not someone who thinks that the program contains everything that's important, worthwhile, fundamental and deep, but we can't do everything at once," he says. "I took some high-powered math courses early on. I did well, but I wish that before taking them I'd done something like what we do here. It might mean you can't solve some problems as early in your academic life, but if you're interested in understanding and not immediate facility, if you're interested in looking at what makes sense and is simple enough to be seen as harmonious and clear, something that is fundamental and fruitful enough to be important when you're 18 or 19 years old, then this is far more important than getting what seems to be the most useful item in your tool kit."

Rosenblatt says "I understand that math at St. John's serves a lot of purposes, including training in *a priori* thinking and integration with other readings in the program, but distilled modern math also provides excellent mental training, also integrates and reinforces a variety of program readings and labs. Beyond that, it will concretely help Johnnies with their careers. I worry that St. John's students are not all finding careers appropriate to their

abilities, and I think the math gap is part of the problem. Why is Ptolemy more elegant or better training for future guardians than genuine calculus?"

Some of the lunchers point out that the college is not just for people with strong interests in math, and that the St. John's approach can show non-mathematicians the wonder of mathematics, can even turn them into mathematicians. Most determined to make this case was Misha Hall (Aoo), a data analyst who writes requirements for and runs tests on the Fannie Mae database.

A BEAUTIFUL PARADIGM

"The way we go about studying Euclid in the first year is great. You have the chance to see the beauty of mathematics," Hall says. "And Ptolemy is really interesting. By the end of the first semester you have to catch yourself, because you'll end up saying that the earth is really in the center of the universe. Mathematics proves everything Ptolemy says; this makes you question the things that you assume, it makes you question numbers and statistics."

Others in the group were not so fond of Ptolemy, saying that the amount of time spent studying the *Almagest* is ridiculous, even describing the first semester of sophomore year as "the long death march through Ptolemy."

Flaumenhaft, however, appreciates Hall's case for the value of Ptolemy. "Ptolemy is maybe the primary example of having experiences that are puzzling precisely because there's so much about them that seems simple, clear, orderly, and beautiful, yet there's just enough to bother and annoy. The activity of trying to make sense of observations given to you, while something within yourself points to an idea—it's a beautiful paradigm of scientific enterprise. I regard the study of Ptolemy as an important intellectual experience. There's the interplay of the world we see and the world we think, but it's also a necessary prerequisite for appreciating the absolutely astounding fact that when you start thinking, you can end up with everything familiar looking altogether different."

At lunch's end, Rosenblatt prompts the Johnnies to repeat a line he's heard before and obviously enjoys. Lawless obliges: "If you want to learn math, go to MIT; if you want to learn why math is heartbreakingly beautiful, St. John's is the place for you." ❀

1932

J.L. BEAN writes: "I hope to make my 70th reunion."

1933

JOHN F. WAGER, JR. writes: "Still alive at 91 years."

1935

RICHARD S. WOODMAN writes: "My brother ROBERT G. WOODMAN, class of 1932, died June 2001. I am still working at a leisurely pace and still reside in a small delightful village in central New York state."
"I'm 88 and still rarin' to go," says MELVILLE L. BISGYER. "My best to the alumni and SJC. You sound wonderful—keep it up."

1936

GILBERT CRANDALL writes: "Only one member of the class of '36 attended the alumni reunion—MARTIN W. RAUSCH. I had planned to attend but ill health prevented me from doing so. I have improved and hope to make the '03 reunion."

1939

After 59 years, MALCOLM SILVER, DDS, has retired from the practice of dentistry.

1942

Based on national scores of the PGA Rules test, ERNEST J. HEINMULLER has been appointed a PGA referee. "This has been a great experience, following the great players on great courses and ruling on situations as they occur," he says.

1943

PETER KELLOGG-SMITH is still making sculpture, writing on education, and working on a fuel efficient internal combustion and steam engine.

1945

LAWRENCE LEVIN writes: "I'm currently leading discussions of the news at Seniors' Community Centers, which I enjoy very much as I do singing tenor with the local chorus."

1947

STEVE BENEDICT writes: "After 50 years behind too many desks, I've repaired to a 1754 farmhouse, with barn and creek, in Spencertown, New York—northern Columbia County. My aim: to sort out and maybe chronicle a whole bunch of not very coherent life themes, helping it all go down with plenty of tennis and piano. If anyone can help—or even if you can't—give a ring and drop by. It's 518-392-0487 or Box 16, Spencertown, NY 12165. E-mail is: stevebenedict@taconic.net."

1949

THE REV. FREDERICK P. DAVIS writes: "We '3-D's' of the Davis clan (wife Rita, son David, and self) are still hanging loose in sunny southern California. Most of the time we continue to take care of each other: Rita tied to tank-oxygen here at home but doing most of the inside house-work; David in wheelchair from compound fracture of both bones below left knee but doing all the hot cooking of dinner, and the 'old man' doing all outside house and garden work while running all errands for food, etc. Relieved of most church work; I'm at long last

SENIOR STATUS, GROWING CASELOAD

Howell Cobb (Class of 1944) writes: "As of March 2001, I took senior status as a U.S. District judge. But my caseload is growing as it is throughout the Eastern District of Texas. My replacement has been nominated by President Bush, but the Senate Judiciary Committee has not granted him a hearing. After he is confirmed, I anticipate my caseload will be about 60% of what it is now. Senior judges remain active, and there are over 200 now with about 650 active judges. About 100 vacancies continue." Howell and his wife have six children—3 sons and 3 daughters—and a total (as of now) of 18 grandchildren. His grandson, Andrew C. Cook, starts in the Graduate Institute this fall.

enjoying worshipping in the congregation in the 49th year in the ministry."

1951

"The college did an exquisite job in arranging our 50th class on-campus reunion," writes DR. LAWRENCE MYERS. "It was both a charming and an educational experience for us. Renewing my friendships with my classmates made me feel very fortunate to be a class member of such a noble, intelligent, and interesting group of men."

1953

ROBERT HAZO reports that he is finishing up 30 years of teaching St. John's type seminars at the University of Pittsburgh. He also coordinated a lecture series that featured many prominent speakers, including George W. Bush. He's now working on a book titled "Minority Rule."

1954

A profile of SYDNEY PORTER was found by JOE KAUFMAN (class of 1953) in the winter 2001-2002 issue of *Radon Reporter*. The profile recounts highlights of Porter's career: He is a founding member and early president of AARST (American Association of Radon

Scientists and Technologists), a Certified Health Physicist, and a fellow of the Health Physics Society, the American Nuclear Society, and the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. He was one of the founders of Radiation Management Corporation.

1955

"Maintain imperturbable equanimity!" writes JOHN JOANOU.

HAROLD BAUER is in mid-season of his 40th year as a conductor of symphony and opera. He will continue as Music Director of New Philharmonic and DuPage Opera Theater, two professional organizations in the Chicago area, through the summer of 2004. He has just concluded conducting Massenet's "Werther," which he says "shares a quite remarkable union with Goethe's novella of 125 years earlier." In addition to a concert of Brahms, Bartok, and Bauer (the premier of his "Celebration for Orchestra"), he conducted a June production of Lehar's "Zigeunerliebe" for Light Opera Works in Evanston, and a July production of Floyd's "Susannah" for DuPage Opera.

1957

THOMAS SIGMAN writes: "HENRY ANSELL passed away summer 2001. Hank had been a successful restaurateur in New York City. He was a

lifelong opera buff. In retirement he volunteered in several important positions at the New York Metropolitan Opera. We remember him also as a fine comedian who could have been a professional. I miss him."

CORNELIA HOFFMAN REESE writes: "In the aftermath of the tragedy of 9/11 when our stunned senses had to recreate a semblance of normality and daily living habits, we decided to go forward with plans to visit my daughter's (**ANGELINA KLINEBURGESS**, A83) friends in Brussels. On Christmas day after our celebration with children, we departed from BWI. We included myself, **ANGELINA**, **EDWARD BURGESS** (A79), and my Burgess grandchildren—Genevieve, Louis, and Cynthia. Though unable to visit **MARY SULLIVAN BLOMBERG** in Sweden as hoped, I was able to have a most delightful phone conversation with Mary, our first voice contact in roughly 30 years. Mary is living in Stockholm."

1958

BLAKELY LITTLETON MECHAU (also SFGI70) and **MICHAEL K. MECHAU** (class of 1959) write: "Both of us are retired, living on a small farm, reading books, and entertaining friends and family."

1960

COL. (RET) JOHN LANE writes: "Hi, decided to retire completely from a full-time job and retired a

few months ago from Bank of America, where I ran all information technology engineering activities. Am doing a bit of consulting, but am basically thoroughly enjoying life. Marie and I are traveling around, indulging our interest in orientalia. We're frequenting auctions and estate sales. I'm finding life is wonderful after many years of 18-hour frenzied days!"

1962

TEMPLE PORTER has lived in Raleigh 20 years with Brenda, his wife of 35 years. After graduating from Coach University in 1997, Temple founded Triangle Coaching Services, a professional organization that provides coaching, counseling, and advisory services to businesses and individuals nationwide. In its infancy now, coaching is gaining great credibility as it spreads to all facets of our culture. Any St. Johnnies interested in exploring this growing field may contact Temple for information. Empty nesters now, Temple and Brenda have three children—a social worker, a property manager, and a photographer—all in N.C. Their oldest grandchild (of 3) is a teenager now, and is ready to take scuba diving lessons as preparation for a career in marine biology.

DAVID BENFIELD writes: "We should all try to make the reunion this year. Remember the old advice from Chase and Phillips: 'The beautiful is difficult.'"

LIFE'S CONTINUUM

VIRGINIA SEEGER HARRISON (Class of 1964) writes: "I'm continuing to learn from the elders with whom I work. Even though they are 'declining,' they are storehouses of memories. (Many are old lefties who recall firsthand WWI and so on.) I try to arrange living situations which preserve or promote quality of life for them. In the meantime, my eldest son and his wife had another child—a girl this time. It's wonderful to have a two-year-old grandson and a 6-month-old granddaughter, and to see the continuum of life.

1965

JOHN HETLAND is still (since 1973) directing the Renaissance Street Singers (www.streetsingers.org).

1966

CHRISTOPHER HODGKIN (A) is looking forward to retiring this summer and having time for serious reading for the first time since leaving the college.

1967

For **HELEN HOBART** (A), March through June 2002 was a season springing with change. She retired as director (and founder) of the City of Sacramento's Alzheimer's day program to launch a new program of peer support groups for individuals beginning the journey of memory loss—and in June, united in marriage with a beloved friend from her Buddhist Sangha. "We take heart from the beautiful renewal of wedding vows that **TOM** (HA94) and **MARION SLAKEY** held here in Sacramento this winter!" she says.

1968

JOY AVERY-BALCH (SF) writes: "My email is still joy@tums.org. Let me tell you about my new career. I went back to school for three years and got an associate's degree in Health Sciences in 1999 and am a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant. However, there were no jobs for C.O.T.A.s nationwide until now. I've just been hired by a national rehabilitation company and finally earning enough money to live on (my first non-not-for-profit job) AND still helping people cope with the problems caused by strokes, heart attacks, accidents, etc. I'm working in two nursing homes with rehab and

really enjoying the one-on-one therapy."

CHARLES B. WATSON (A) writes: "#1 son, Ivan Watson, now reporting from Kabul for NPR. Busy life continues unabated now that we're empty nesters and I still only get to New York City two times a year. Recently experienced 3rd world health care as Masha broke her arm on a boat in BVI."

ANTIGONE PHALARES (SF) writes: "Our small but longstanding and dedicated Sacramento SJC seminar group chugs along and enriches our lives, most of all because we are lucky to have **TOM** (HA94) and **MARION SLAKEY** who have blessed us with their culture and refinement and warm hearts. I strongly recommend to each alumni seminar that they seek out retired tutors and nudge them to move into your area and participate in your seminars." She describes the Slakeys' renewal of their wedding vows this past January and notes that she, **ARIANNE LAIDLAW** (class of 1957), and **CURTIS AND BECKY WILSON** (HA83 and 82AGI) were among the Johnnies in attendance.

GEORGE PARTLOW (A) is looking forward to retirement in June. His fifth grandchild, Dakota Aragon Watson, was born on Christmas morning.

RICK WICKS (SF) was in Alaska last summer for the first time in ten years, where he had a chance to visit **CARL BOSTEK** (SF) and his fantastic Alaskan lodge. "We visited our land and the kids and I caught salmon in the ocean—a great time!" he writes.

THOMAS G. KEENS (SF) writes: "I am a professor of pediatrics, physiology, and biophysics at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California. In February 2002, I organized a post-graduate course in Non-Invasive Ventilation of Children with Respiratory Failure as part of the 5th International Congress of Pediatric Pulmonology in Nice, France. I also spoke on Transitioning CCHS Patients to Non-Invasive Ventilation at the Second

ABOUT THE FOUR CATS...

MARILYNNE (MAURY WILLS) SCOTT (SF) writes: "My husband David and I enjoyed to our daughter, Emily's, May graduation from Sarah Lawrence College. She has been accepted at Yale Divinity School where she will pursue a master's of Art and Religion to combine her interests in music (trombone) and liturgy. I continue to teach first grade in a suburban school outside Seattle. This year will be my 25th in public education. The standards/accountability movement has been discouraging to those of us who prefer to view children as human beings glorious in their uniqueness. They say life begins when the dog dies and the last child has left home—both of which have happened to me. So how did I end up with four cats?!"

International Symposium of Congenital Central Hypoventilation Syndrome in Paris, France. I coordinate one of the world's largest home mechanical ventilation programs for children at the Children's Hospital, Los Angeles. We have sent home 346 children on part-time or full-time mechanical assisted ventilation in 24 years."

ELLIN BARRET (SF) is a member of the board of California Revels—a non-profit performance organization. Revels groups exist in nine cities across the U.S. and present non-religious winter solstice pageants and other musical events. It's a great way to celebrate the winter. The website is www.revels.org.

1969

JAMIE CROMARTIE (SF), FRANCES BURNS, and **MARK AND LINDA BERNSTEIN** (all A69) met at the Trenton Thunder Minor League game on August 19. A mini-'69 NJ/Phila. Reunion.

WENDY WATSON (SF) writes: "I'm alive and well in Detroit, Michigan. I'm running three senior centers and concerned with aging policy development. My daughter Amy is 15 and interested in theater and is a good actress. She's making her way through Shakespeare. Peace and justice activities on a local level are important to me. Most of my friends are somehow engaged in these activities too."

BETH KUPER (SF) has left the corporate world and is now working as a feng shui consultant.

MARGARET GAFFNEY (SF) writes: "My home is now 20 blocks from Luther Burbank's Home and Garden. I'm planting roses, tomatoes and chilies in Santa Rosa, California. Ahh! The Sun! Good for baby boomer bone marrow. There is a guest bedroom—St. Johnnies are welcome. I'm doing landscaping, nutritional—RN triage (cradle to grave) and photography.

BARBARA MORDES ROSS (A) writes: "To all the ones who have ever known me, loved me, despised me—I just want you to know that I held each and every one of you in my heart as I lay near death after being broadsided by a truck that went three feet into my driver's seat. I was miraculously saved, first by my good dear little Maxima that I've loved and taken care of for 17 years because she talks to me. Second, by the red trauma team that wanted to beat out the blue trauma team to rescue me. I ended up with six broken ribs, a broken clavicle, a collapsed lung, and a new love for old friends. Now, when I say I love you to people I haven't talked to for thirty years, I realize how much I do love them." Barbara would appreciate phone calls (407-492-4047) or letters (2912 Autumnwood Trail, Apopka, FL 32703) from old friends. Flowers would also be lovely.

1970

SUSAN SWARTZBERG-RUBENSTEIN (SF) (formerly Susan Wood) is working as a foreign correspondent for public radio while living in France. She can be reached at Ssrub@aol.com, or by post at 6, Impasse Pierre Simon, 92240 Malakoff, Paris, France. She writes: "The St. John's College alumni living in Paris had a reunion last month in the café at the top of the Pompidou Center with a magnificent aerial view of half of Paris, sweeping from Sacre Coeur to the Eiffel Tower around to Notre Dame, and looking over the plan of the city and the Haussmannian mansard rooftops.

"It was a delightful, unrushed afternoon of fellowship with some discussion about how we would like to continue meeting. The five of us included **BILL RANDOLPH (A75)**, **NATHANAEL LONG (SF90)**, **JENNIFER DONNELLY (A96)**, **GEORGES CONTOS** (class of 1952) and yours truly. We have plans to meet again on June 21, this time at someone's home, to discuss the following list of poems:

Pierre de Ronsard - "Recueil: Sonnets pour Helene"
Robert Herrick - "To The Virgins, To Make Much of Time"
W. B. Yeats - "When You are Old"
Jules LaFargue - "Autre Complainte de Lord Pierrot"
Thosophile Gautier - "L'hip-potame"
T.S. Eliot - "The Hippopotamus"

RONALD H. FIELDING (A) writes: "Now in my seventh year with Oppenheimer Funds, managing four municipal bond funds with over \$8.5 billion (yes, that's a B) and 20 staff. Ron was the subject of a three-page spread in *Barron's* April 29 issue. Sons Daniel and Michael are in 11th and 9th grades, so college planning has begun, and I showed Dan St. John's this summer. Also, we've just begun architectural design work for a new house on the beach on Kiawah Island, S.C. I bought an older house on the property from Archibald Cox three years ago,

which will be torn down. We expect to spend winters there once both boys are in college."

1971

MICHAEL VICTOROFF (A) has left his job as medical director for Aetna and is writing a book on errors in medicine.

JOHN STARK BELLAMY II (A) is astonished to announce the publication of his fourth book devoted to Cleveland murders and disasters, *The Killer in the Attic: And Even More Tales of Cleveland Woe*, published by Gray & Co. Publishers, Cleveland.

1972

CLAUDE F. MARTIN (A) writes: "30 years? It seems longer!"

LESLIE STARR (A) has played a third season as substitute second oboe with the Baltimore Symphony and took part in the orchestra's fall 2001 tour of Europe, which included performances in London, Paris, Berlin, and Vienna.

1973

WILFRED (BILL) MCCLAY (A) was nominated by President Bush to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities, which is the governing board of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

DEBORAH ACHTENBERG'S (A) book, *Cognition of Value in Aristotle's Ethics: Promise of Enrichment, Threat of Destruction*, was published by State University of New York Press, May 2002.

STEPHEN A. SLUSHER (SF) is practicing intellectual property law—primarily biotechnology patent prosecution and litigation, as a partner at Peacock, Myers & Adams, P.C. in Albuquerque.

WHITE HOUSE WORDSMITH

Two bright September days—one joyful, one tragic—have set the tone for Holly Miller’s White House work.

BY SUSAN BORDEN A87

It was a crisp sunny Saturday in early September when Holly Miller (SFG101), a new writer on Laura Bush’s staff, brought her visiting parents with her to the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress to hear the First Lady speak at Washington’s National Book Festival. “It was a beautiful day and a great event for the city,” Miller says. “We heard Mrs. Bush’s remarks, strolled around, watched children playing on the lawn, and listened to Stephen Ambrose speak.”

Three days later, September 11, was also a beautiful day in Washington, but instead of celebrating, Miller found herself and her colleagues from the Old Executive Office Building fleeing their workspace in confusion and fear as a Boeing 767 struck the Pentagon and the safety of downtown D.C. seemed unimaginably flimsy.

Despite the somber note that tragic day brought to the lives of Washington workers, it did not mark the end of Miller’s honeymoon with her dream job. “After 9/11 the position definitely had new meaning,” says Miller. “The attacks gave me a greater sense for where I worked and why I was in public service. Having the opportunity to write for someone who is in a position to offer comfort to so many people made me realize that I was contributing to the larger work of the White House.”

Shortly after the attacks, Mrs. Bush’s staff relocated to the East Wing of the White House where Miller now works in a small office next to the Visitors’ Center. Over the next few months, a number of family members of the 9/11 victims visited the White House. “It was inspiring to meet them and an honor to have the chance to express my condolences,” she says. “They were so brave and gracious. I remember



HOLLY MILLER (RIGHT) WITH BOSS LAURA BUSH.

thinking that no matter where you live or who you are, there is a level at which we can all connect. Even more simply, I was thinking that there are so many good people out there.”

Miller says that the excitement of working in the White House has not diminished over time and adds that she’s never met anyone, no matter how long they’ve worked there, for whom it had. “Anyone with any interest in history can’t help but be thrilled to work here, to walk through these hallways. It’s so humbling, so fascinating. I’m always learning about the history of this place.”

Miller is learning about a lot more than the history and lore of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. An ongoing challenge of her job is to capture the style and sentiments of Mrs. Bush to use in the writing she does on her behalf.

“It’s a learning process,” she says. “I trained under my predecessor, who had a good sense of Mrs. Bush’s voice. I’ve read her old speeches. Sometimes I can go back

and find what I want to write in a speech she delivered months ago. Learning to write for her is a matter of marrying of my style and her style; her style changes and I evolve with her.”

Of course in Miller’s potentially sensitive position, getting the style right is only part of the challenge. She discusses policy-related correspondence with Mrs. Bush’s director of policy. When she writes thank-you letters to foreign heads of state, she consults the National Security Council.

And all her work is checked by the First Lady before she signs it. “My communication with Mrs. Bush comes through the written word, which informs my style,” says Miller. “She’s the best editor. Her changes, whether of a word or a sentence, make everything read just right.”

Miller’s a competent editor on her own. She notes that all of her jobs—whether in government, television, or public relations—have been writing jobs. After earning a BA in English and creative writing from Denison University in 1995, she began her career as a writer and legislative aide to Senator Olympia Snow of Maine and enrolled in the Graduate Institute at St. John’s in 1997. “What a great time to do it,” she says. “I was reading texts about early government and how democracy came about, reading *The Prince* while working on the Hill.”

Now Mrs. Bush’s deputy director of correspondence, Miller’s literary focus is primarily on the words and thoughts of the First Lady, although she does make time to read the words of others. “I just finished reading the David McCullough biography, *John Adams*, and I’m trying to read more from the great collection of books I got at St. John’s,” she says. First on the list for this White House staffer? Alexis de Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America*. ❖

JON FERRIER (A) writes: "I just finished an introduction to jazz program at our local public library where Kayne, my wife, was branch head."

LURIE FRANKLIN CALLAHAN'S (SF) daughter, Erin Callahan, will be a freshman on the Annapolis campus in the fall.

From **STEVE AND MELISSA SEDLIS (both A)**: "Steve is chief of cardiology at the Manhattan VA Medical Center. He is an interventional cardiologist and associate professor at NYU School of Medicine. Melissa is a pediatrician in private practice in Manhattan and on the faculty of Weill Cornell Medical College and Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. Our oldest daughter, Elizabeth, is graduating from Barnard College with a degree in neurosciences. Our second daughter, Jennifer, is a sophomore at Scripps College studying political science, and Julia is in high school."

After over 20 years as a computer consultant serving the healthcare industry, **JAN LISA HUTTNER (A)** is now devoting herself full time to her web site **FILMS FOR TWO: THE ONLINE GUIDE FOR BUSY COUPLES** (www.films42.com <<http://www.films42.com/>>) and related speaking and writing projects. Alumni who logged on this summer had an extra treat—a guest editorial by David Chute (A72).

1974

Alla and **JEFF VICTOROFF (A)** are pleased as punch to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Maia on February 23, 2001.

1975

In addition to his editorial work at the University of Miami in North-South Center, **JOSE GRAVE DE PERALTA (A)** is teaching art history at the Art and Art History Department and freehand drawing in the

School of Architecture. He is also a painter and is presently designing large screens (oil on wood) and continuing to work in pen and ink.

CYNTHIA KIRSCHNER SWISS (A) writes: "My husband and I are sponsoring a coffeehouse for singer-songwriters at St. John's Methodist Church on Harford Road in Baltimore the first Saturday of every month."

"I've largely left newspapering for longer forms," writes **ERIC SCIGLIANO (SF)**. "A new book, *Love, War, and Circuses: the Age-Old Relationship Between Elephants and Humans* was published by Houghton Mifflin this spring."

1976

PHYLLIS P. GOODMAN (SFGI) became a great-grandmother on March 22.

LANDRUN HARDY MASON (A) writes: "I'm living happily in the Connecticut countryside with my wife and daughter. Our son is now a freshman at MIT, and I'm in my third career. After 10 years each as a computer scientist and then a corporate manager, I'm now an investment advisor and fund manager—and loving it. Would be thrilled to hear from any of my friends from my abbreviated career at St. John's."

1977

WALTER T. FEATHERLY (SF) writes: "As of July 1, 2001, I joined the Washington D.C.-based law firm of Patton Boggs, but I continue to reside and work in Anchorage, Alaska." He'd like to hear from any Johnnies traveling to Alaska.

BOB ELLIOTT (A) writes: "I have just started my own investment banking/securities boutique after 18 years at JP Morgan. I am happy to discuss careers on Wall Street with interested students/alumni, especially those in the Chicago

area where I live with my wife, Stephanie, and three daughters."

1978

VICTOR LEE AUSTIN (SF) writes: "In the spring of 2002, three Austins celebrated graduation. I received my PhD in theology at Fordham; my dissertation title: *A Christological Social Vision: The Uses of Christ in the Social Encyclicals of John Paul II*. But also in the same season, our son, Michael, received his BA from Thomas Aquinas College; and our daughter, Emily, graduated from high school. My wife, **SUSAN (GAVAHAN, SF76)**, doesn't quite know what to think, but is enjoying some physical and mental improvement of late. (In 1993 she had brain surgery.) A book of my meditations, *A Priest's Journal*, was published in late 2001 by Church Publishing in New York.

PETER BUCK (SF) continues his work to set up a year-long rites of passage workshop in North Carolina and continues his work with Quakers.

1980

PETER GRUBB (A) writes: "2002 celebrates 18 years of marriage, the 8th and 11th birthdays of our two lovely children (Mariah and Jonah), and 23 years owning my business ROW (River Odysseys West/Remote Odysseys Worldwide). ROW's Missouri river adventures, paddling 34-foot canoes that replicate those of the early fur traders along the Lewis and Clark trail, are selling like hot cakes. Visit ROW at www.rowinc.com."

1981

CHRIS MARK (A) bought a house in Laurel, Md. in late 2000. "It's within earshot of I-95, so any

Johnnies passing through the area are welcome to stop by for a refreshing beverage. My email address is cjmark@speakeasy.org."

MATT HARTZELL (A) writes: "Amongst other fun and frolic, I'm now on the Board of Directors for a new bank we helped organize and start up. The Right Bank for Texas opened its doors May 13. I'm still waiting for my Director's fees, but I guess I haven't drawn the right 'Chance' or 'Community Chest' card yet!"

MARILYNN R. SMITH (SFGI) writes: "I'm retiring this year from the K-12 school district for which I've worked for 27 years. I'll continue to teach, though, for the local community college. Also I'll have time to spend with my 4 grandchildren!"

1982

GAIL DONOHUE STOREY (SFGI), a novelist, and her husband, Dr. Porter Storey, bicycled 2400 miles in seven weeks from Houston, Texas to Camden, Maine on their tandem bicycle, fully self-supported with four panniers.

KATHI SUE NASH WILSON (SF) has a daughter, Karina, who graduated in June from the University of California at the age of 19. The family, which includes her husband Wayne, and seven-year-old son Kennedy, are relocating this summer.

PATTY (SOWA) RUBIN (A) is living on Maryland's Eastern Shore with husband Eric and children Anna (16), Madalen (12), and Alden (8). "I'm teaching preschool music (best teaching job I've had, for the worst pay), directing church choir, singing as soloist and as member of local choruses. Current improbable ambitions: to have my own office and sing Die Wesendonk Lieder."

DAVID HERSHEL WEINSTEIN (A) has lived in Florida since 1985 and is still the director of research for a brokerage firm. He's recently

continued on p.36

UNMASKING THE APOCALYPSE

A Johnnie parodies a best-selling series of apocalyptic novels.

BY SUSAN BORDEN (A87)

His sentences are stilted, his nouns too often abstract. His dialogue is plodding and his reasoning is circular. His characters are stereotypes living in a world of clichés. His plot is far-fetched and his descriptions are long and largely irrelevant.

You'd think a graduate of St. John's and a lecturer at New St. Andrews College would know better.

And you'd be right.

Nathan Wilson (AG101) is the author of *Right Behind*, a parody of the best-selling apocalyptic novel *Left Behind*. In *Left Behind*, the world is confronted with the sudden disappearance of a significant portion of its population as the true believers are raptured, leaving a confused world of non-believers behind to discover the truth and live out the Bible's apocalyptic vision.

In *Right Behind*, Wilson mocks every aspect of the book, from the heavy-handed character development to the clumsy writing. "I wanted to imitate the writing style, the thought process, the plot structure. I wanted to imitate into caricature every literary aspect of the work and its theology," he says. But his main goal was to reveal the pernicious thinking behind *Left Behind's* theology—and its success. "[Authors] LaHaye and Jenkins have created a false view of Christ. I want-

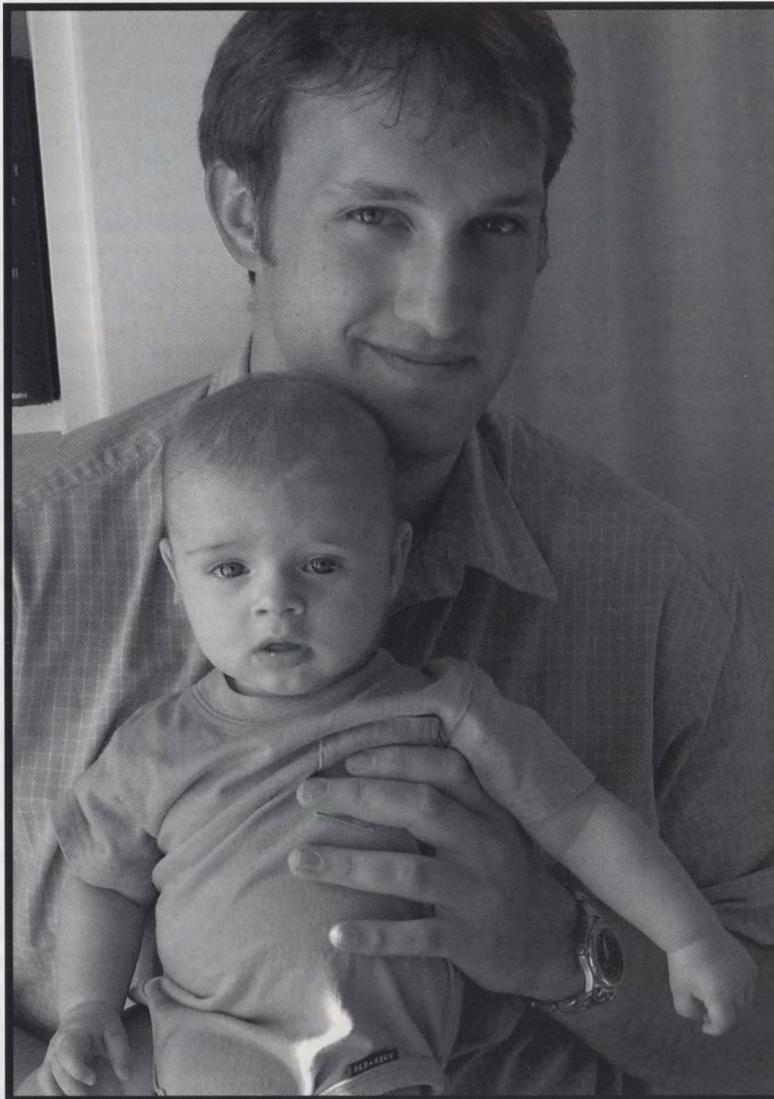
ed to demonstrate that historic Christianity is much bigger than what *Left Behind* presents."

Wilson says that dispensational theology (the theological position that holds that God covenants with people in different ways in different periods of history—in this case requiring that the Temple be

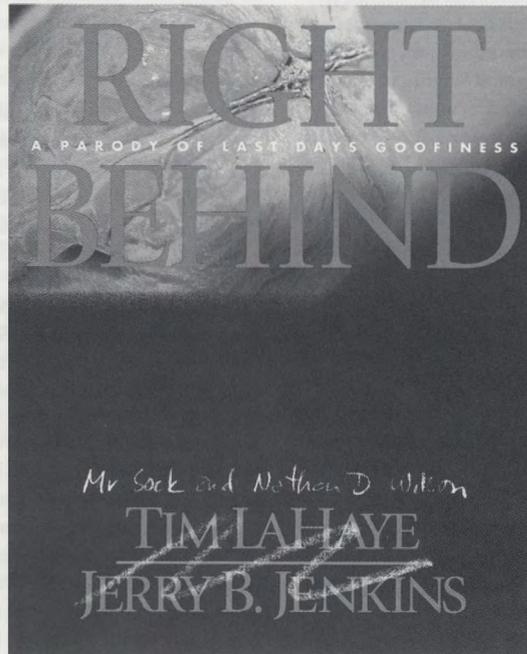
rebuilt and the sacrificial system reestablished as the world prepares for the apocalypse) has ridden one wave of popularity after another since it first showed up in the 19th century. He says that, not only does the dispensationalists' vision rob Christianity of its depth and meaning, but its promoters often have another agenda—to rob Christians of their worldly possessions.

"Dispensational theology has always been a resting place for thieves. In the 1890s they said the end of the world would be in ten years. They got people to sell their homes, give them their money," Wilson says. "Some people will take on massive debt, do short term things like not get married and go off to work in the mission field for what they think is the world's last few years. There's nothing shallower than a Christ culture with end-of-the-world fever, because everything's short-term thinking."

As Wilson has reflected this shallow thinking in the mirror of parody, he's caused a stir among a number of readers of the *Left Behind* series. "I was expecting far more anger," he says, "but I got a lot of feedback that was positive and thoughtful. I heard from people saying 'thanks for letting people know that the *Left Behind* books are not the only



PARODIST NATHAN WILSON WITH HIS SON, RORY D.



option.’ And I heard from people who have awakened and started reading those books in light of *Right Behind*. My goal was not to present a theology, but to trigger an investigation of LaHaye’s and Jenkins’ ideas.”

Readers’ comments on Amazon.com include: “It’s about time a Christian who is concerned with what the Bible actually says writes a book,” and “I laughed my evangelical Christian keister off.” Two self-proclaimed authorities on dispensational theology also weighed in, says Wilson: “Tim LaHaye said my book was funny but Jenkins got really, really mad.”

Those most critical of Wilson’s book saw him as anti-Christian. “Some people got really fired up and thought I was blaspheming against Christianity and attacking God,” says Wilson. “But I was most certainly not doing that. I was attacking a new and not too long-lived movement in the evangelical world.”

Far from being prone to take potshots at Christianity, Wilson comes from a Christian background and takes religion seriously. “My parents came out of the ‘Jesus People’ movement in the ‘70s. It was a bunch of hippies who moved on from ‘make love not war’ to somehow find the doctrines of Christ. My dad became a pastor in a Jesus People church in an auto-body shop.”

Wilson’s father is still pastor of that church, which has become a Presbyterian church, and Wilson describes his parents now as old-guard historic Protestants. “I’ve lived through most of that process,” he says. “I was born into the body shop church, and am now currently attend-

ing that Presbyterian church.”

In addition to leading the church, Wilson’s father founded the Logos School, a K-12 classical school, and New St. Andrews College, where Wilson got his BA in 1999. “I came out of there looking for a graduate liberal arts program. The only thing that was appealing was St. John’s. I was already addicted to great books, having been boiled in them at an early age. After experiences with courses in other schools, I thought St. John’s was ideal.”

Wilson has now returned to New St. Andrews College as a part-time lecturer in literature and will teach Euclid’s geometry and classical rhetoric this fall. He’s also managing editor of *Credenda/Agenda*, a magazine he describes as “a philosophically and religiously Trinitarian cultural journal.” He’s working on study guides for *Paradise Lost* and *Faerie Queen* for Veritas Publishing in Pennsylvania and is in the process of editing a collection of articles comparing Islam and Christianity. Wilson’s *Right Behind* publisher, Canon Press, is thinking of following up with another parody. Wilson favors a Christian romance novel.

As for the theology that served as counter-inspiration for *Right Behind*, it’s still out there, more popular than ever. The Left Behind series has sold over 50 million books in 21 languages. Left Behind products include 10 novels, five graphic novels, 26 children’s books, several audio tapes, a calendar, and a movie. For his part, Wilson does not see its continued influence and success as an impediment to his beliefs. “I think the evangelical church is a mess,” he says, “but I still count myself part of it.” ❖

FROM RIGHT BEHIND
BY NATHAN D. WILSON

Buff sat by his window in business class and watched the sun come up like a single tooth in a bleeding gum. He remembered that time in Israel. You know, that time when he became a deist and began to think that he led a charmed life because he always was, to coin a phrase, in the right place at the right time.

An old woman sat across the aisle from him, a passed out drunk next to him. He turned from his window and looked at the old woman. She had a pair of cotton nylon blend underpants in one hand and dentures in the other. She stared at Buff in shock.

“Excuse me mister,” she said.

“Yes?” Buff said.

“He’s gone. My Harold’s gone. He’s just gone, vanished, disappeared. Could you help me find him?”

“I’m afraid that there is going to be no finding him Ma’am.”

“Why?”

“Has he left all material things behind him, clothes, dentures, hairpiece?”

“Yes.”

“Then he has finally turned his back on this world of matter and all things evil. He has jumped right out of the corruption that matter entails. He has taken everything essential to his being and left the rest behind. He has reached the enlightened world of Forms where there is no jewelry but spiritual jewels, where dentures cannot go, where everyone is naked. He has been Raptured.”

“How do you know?” the woman said.

“I write bad apocalyptic fiction. I know things.

Endtimes are my game.”

spent some time studying counterbioterrorism and Joseph Campbell.

JIM (A84) AND TISH HEYSELL'S (A) daughter, Maria, who was carried across the graduation stage in 1982 as an infant when Tish graduated from St. John's, has finished her freshman year. She enjoyed her year and loves the "great conversation."

ELIZABETH COLMANT ESTES (A) writes: "After nine years climbing the corporate ladder at AT&T, I found myself pregnant and ready for new life. Joined a creative web firm where I was the oldest employee. Got bought out by a bigger firm in 2000. Watched the web business disappear and my colleagues with it. Took home the plants and 10-foot giraffes this week. Setting up my home office as a business consultant. Helping companies like the New York Times and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter to go paperless. Working 60-hour weeks but mostly from home where I can watch two-year-old Olivia play in the garden below. This May I joined my son Michael, 17, in Italy where he spent the year with his sabbaticalized dad."

RUTH ANN SMITH PLUMMER (A) says hello to anyone who might remember her. She asks her old friends to email her if they will be attending the 20th reunion: r.plummer@ntlworld.com.

1983

LYN DESMARAIS (A) writes: "Our kids are growing, healthy, and active. We are engaged in a lot of music, mainly bluegrass, and hope to have a barn full of animals by winter."

RUSSELL TITUS (A) writes: "It's an exciting year for me. I have a new job with terrific training facilities and my wife and I are expecting our third child in September. Hmm...I'll be 63 when this child graduates high school."

From **MARGARET S. MERTZ (SF)**: "Santa Fe Class of '83 alums—where are you? I am in my 3rd year as the Dean of General Studies at the North Carolina School of the Arts—finally a winning combination of my St. John's years in the context of a performing arts conservatory. Email is always welcome: msmertz@mindspring.com."

1984

LIZ TRAVIS (SF) writes: "Leaving my role in higher education was tough, but I originally picked St. John's with the intention of going on to become a lawyer, and when I found that an annual ski pass was a part of the deal I knew I belonged here in Mammoth. If ever you are wandering in the Eastern Sierras, look me up; the door will be open."

FR. ROBERT JOHN NICOLETTI, M.J. (SF) is living in Ukraine and searching for benefactors for an orphanage for 14 children (soon to be many more) and a soup kitchen (serving over 250 people a day).

"Greetings to all my friends from St. John's," writes **BETH KOOLBECK (A)**. "I keep very busy homeschooling each of our four school-age children. (We have two preschoolers, as well.) This sounds a lot harder than it is, since the older kids do much of the chores. The hardest part is getting along with each other, which we do for the most part. It's never dull, and sometimes we have moments of glory."

Elizabeth and **JOHN BUSH (SF)** and Salem and Loran say hello from the mountains of Virginia.

CHRIS RUTKOWSKI (A) is thrilled to announce the birth of her daughter, Rose Adelajda Rutkowski.

SARAH DEKORNE (A) writes: "I am working as a technical writer for a medical software company. My daughters, Cecelia and Helen, are now 14 and 12. I am remarrying in the fall, Mark Howe. I hope to see my classmates at our 20th reunion."

1986

AMY BIANCO (SF) is living in Sleepy Hollow, New York, and working as a science editor at large for Princeton University Press. Her email address is amybianco@earthlink.net.

DANIEL SCHOOS (A) participated in the Washington, D.C. AIDS ride in June, a 330-mile bicycle trek from Norfolk to Washington, D.C.

STEPHANIE RICO (A) writes: "Todd (TODD PETERSON, A87) was hanging out as ship's surgeon on the U.S.S. Stennis in the Arabian Gulf while Steph was waiting for their first child to arrive. Todd was sorry to miss the birth, but came home in May. Steph taught high school physics up until the day it all happened. Exciting times for both of us."

ELISABETH LONG (A) is currently splitting her time between co-directing the Digital Library Development Center at the University of Chicago and her latest endeavor—getting an MFA in book and paper arts at Columbia College. She had her first piece in a gallery show in January. It was based on the 3 Fates.

1987

MICHAEL DAVID (SF) writes: "Left Sandia Labs in October 2000, tried technology marketing consulting until recession arrived. Been teaching algebra and geometry at Sandia High School in Albuquerque. Students loved Euclid Book I and doing propositions. I-47 is still fun. Now looking for business position."

SALLIE FINE LEWIN (A) writes: "On March 24th I married Michael Lewin in Cleveland, Ohio. While not a Johnnie, Mike did win the approval of many of our fold. We were thrilled that **JERRY ABRAMS (A87)**, **DAVE HEIMANN (A87)**, **SHEILA MONEN VIRGIL (A88)**, **LINDA HAMM GREZ (A86)**, **TAMARA**

(A87) AND JEROME DOWNEY (A86), JO ANN (A87) AND WALTER MATTSOON (A87), and **JOE MILLER (A89)** could join us as we celebrated the start of our new life together. After a fabulous honeymoon in Australia, we're adjusting well to our new filing status."

1988

SARAH WATERS (A) writes: "I'm back on Kent Island and loving it. I'm senior designer for Vanguard Communications in Washington, D.C., and doing my art on the side. Would love to hear from my classmates. Come visit."

1989

GEORGE ERHARD (SF) writes: "I am currently working as an Internet technical course developer and instructor and have recently rediscovered philosophy by way of motorcycling"

JOE MILLER (A) will move from Chicago to Portland, Oregon in late May. He will join the faculty of Lewis & Clark Law School as an assistant professor teaching intellectual property and evidence law courses.

HEIDI ANN HOOGSTRA (SF) writes: "I am primarily responsible for getting a new Buddhist Peace Fellowship chapter started for Portland, Oregon. I am also the contact person for this new chapter. I would love to hear from folks (you know who you are). My email address is enji@earthlink.net."

SOPHIE EHRHARDT (ROMANO) (SF) writes: "Mac and I still find ourselves in the heartland with (his) family business and (my) growing Montessori school, and enough community involvement to drown in. We know we have the two smartest and most beautiful children this side of the Mississippi River. If anyone knows where **JOHN ANGE (SF88)** is, drop me an email: orchards@deskmedia.com."

JENNIFER ROGERS HOHEISEL (AGI) writes: "Eric, Will, Luke, and I are beginning to put down roots in New Jersey. I just got a tenure track teaching job in philosophy at Camden County College. This fall has been quite a time to contemplate and 'teach' ethics, especially with a wonderfully diverse group of students. I continue to be an evangelist for St. John's style seminars. Eric is enjoying his 5th year as a pastor at a local church that is geographically and economically between Camden and Haddonfield, New Jersey. Will is in third grade, and Luke just started kindergarten. We miss everyone at St. John's!"

JOY KAPLAN (SF87) came for a quick trip to Texas, where she visited with **DIXIE DAVIS** (A), **JIM TOURTELOTT** (A73), and ran into **KEVIN HEYBURN** (SF86) at a book signing.

BEVERLY ANGEL (SFGI) graduated in May from University of Texas School of Law. She was recently selected as one of 16 third year students (out of a class of 450) for Peregrinus Consul. Consuls are chosen for recognition based on leadership and service to the law school community. She hopes to practice general civil litigation after graduation. She is currently clerking part-time at Hilgers & Watkins, a mid-size Austin firm.

RICK CRAVEN (A) writes: "Rick and his wife Debbie were expecting their first baby in July. They can be reached at 2007 Bent Tree Loop, Round Rock, TX 78681; rperc-faven@hotmail.com. We'd love to hear your news and visitors are welcome!"

JEANNE BLACKMORE (NÉE DUVOISIN) (A) writes: "I've never written into the alumni magazine; after all these years, I guess it's time! To start from the beginning, I became a lawyer (ugh, I know, how boring) after college, and wound up practicing tax law/mergers & acquisitions for Ernst & Young's San Jose office. After too many years of that, I met my husband and we decided to take two years off from real jobs to

work for an animal rescue group in beautiful southern Utah, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. We ran their mobile adoption program for dogs, and loved it. My firm never let me quit completely, but for some unknown reason asked me to continue working part time from home in a research and writing capacity. This fall, after we finished our two year stint in Utah, we returned to the East Coast in Burlington, Vermont. We are enjoying it very much, snow and all. I'm back to work full time for Ernst & Young from my home office—much better than a real office.

Somewhere in all of that, we had a baby boy named Benjamin Rex. He's eight months old now, and we think he's a blast! But, I guess all parents think that about their babies!

Over the years, I've kept in touch with **GARFIELD GOODRUM** (A89); he and his wife Lucy just relocated to Vermont. They have a beautiful spread near Woodstock, with horses, guest houses, and the like. We're contemplating moving in with them. I've also kept in touch with **ALEXANDRA KAMBOURIS-ALBERSTADT** (A87), who lives in NYC and just had her second baby—a boy. And **SANDRO BAITAGLIA** (A90) got married last year and then narrowly (phew) survived the WTC disaster. All three are lawyers—egads!

I'd love to hear from any Johnnies in the area or from any of my long lost classmates! Feel free to e-mail at jeannevt@adelphia.net."

1990

KEVIN GRAHAM (A) has been granted tenure and promoted to the rank of associate professor of philosophy at Creighton University, the Jesuit University of Omaha.

GRAHAM HARMAN's (A) book, *Tool-Being: Heidegger and the Metaphysics of Objects*, is available from Open Court Publishing.

JONATHAN YING (A) earned a master of industrial and labor relations from Cornell University in

May, 2001. During his studies at Cornell he was an intern at Amgen and General Mills. Jon is currently a human resources manager at Texas Instruments' Wireless Terminals business unit. His email address is jjyng100@yahoo.com.

SEAN P. SCALLY (AGI) and **DEBORAH S. SCALLY NEE LILLY** (AGI91) have relocated to 9107 Demery Court, Brentwood, Tennessee 37027 (615-373-1094). Deborah is the editor of *Bank Director Magazine* and *Board Member Magazine* and can be reached at dscally@boardmember.com. Sean is University counsel and Tax Attorney for Vanderbilt University and Medical Center and can be reached at sean.scally@vanderbilt.edu. "We have two wonderful children: Case, age 8 and Molly, age 5," writes Sean. "Both of us miss all our GI classmates and tutors and the special program that is SJC. We'd also like to hear from Johnnies who are near Nashville even if you are just passing through!"

KEN TURNBULL (A) recently changed law firms and is now an associate in the Washington, D.C. office of Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe, LLP, a firm that originated in San Francisco. On May 4 he married Leslie Spiegel, who also is a lawyer in D.C. "I'd love to hear from old friends at my email address: kturnbull@orrick.com."

1991

DEIRDRE ROUTT (A) has taken a position as a cataloger and reference librarian at the main branch of the Omaha Public Library.

SALLY HENDERSON KELLER (SFGI) writes: "I am in my 10th year of teaching Honors Philosophy at the high school level. **BRUCE GRIGSBY** (SGI95) was a great help during the early design stages. I designed the course featuring the seminar method as a key component. It was approved in 1991 and I've been teaching it every year since that time. I was honored to be chosen the Teacher of the year 2001 (dis-

trict #60, Pueblo, Co.). Again, a graduate of St. John's, **LENORE TRUJILLO** (SGI95), was one of my strongest supporters."

From the parents of **MICKEY MERCLE** (AGI91): "In 2001, seeking to cut back to a 10 hour day from the hectic life of a consultant, Mickey took a pay cut and accepted a position with Kinko's. Six months later Kinko's CEO laid off most of the California workforce and moved their headquarters to Dallas, so Mickey returned to one of her previous employers, OFDA. The Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance was glad to have her back and posted her to Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Mali. They also gave her a global positioning system to pinpoint possible landing strips for small planes as she traveled around Western Africa.

"From beautiful Freetown, high on a hill overlooking the ocean, via satellite phone, Mickey sighs wistfully and says, 'Someday I'll find a job where I can stay in one place long enough to have a personal life and have Murphy and McDuff' (her two bassets).

"The caretakers of M and M sigh and hope for this too.

"Mickey's diplomatic pouch address is 2160 Freetown Place, Dulles, VA 20521-2160. Her personal email (bassetpal@aol.com) at 9600 baud is available but not answered often."

1992

LANI MAKHOLM (AGI) writes: "I'm currently through my church taking a six-month certificate course on the Islam faith. Also through the U.S. Dept. of State I have recently completed a two-week course on the Near East and Africa. When I graduated from St. John's, I was working for the U.S. Information Agency which merged in 1999 with the State Department. For the USIA, I worked primarily with educational and cultural exchanges but since the merger, have had to get up to speed on politics and U.S. policies in the countries for which I am responsible. I hope through my

studies on the Near East to be led to short-term mission work in Islamic countries."

ELYETTE KIRBY, formerly Elyette Block (SF), writes: "I've moved to Tunbridge Wells, UK, originally for work but am now a stay-at-home mom to Benjamin and am expecting another baby this September. I'm always interested in meeting up with old friends who may be in the area."

VICTORIA BURGESS (SF) writes: "I was able to catch up with Nicole **KALMAN LEVY** (SF92) this past August when I was in the U.S. which was super. I am still living in London and would love to get in touch with any Johnnies in the London area."

GREG FRANCKE'S (A) piece, "Israeli actions toward Palestinians a crying shame," was published in April in *The Citizen*.

JIM CACHEY (SFGI) has recently opened his own real estate brokerage firm in Chicago. His website is www.jimcachey.com.

DAWN BELTZ POLLARD (AGI98) and **PHIL POLLARD** (AGI92) have three daughters—Eleanore, Anna, and Thea. They're opening a Waldorf-inspired school in Knoxville. Phil plays lots of drums and has about 75 music students.

1993

SHARON FITZPATRICK (A) writes: "Despite prestigious ambitions as an adolescent, I had an intuitive

sense that I would become a farmer. My 11-year-old mutt, Judas, and I have been working at Organic Herbs Unlimited in Sarasota since September. Among the many reasons I moved to Florida, learning to grow food organically is an aromatic challenge. I am also in the process of publishing a memoir and a collection of shorter work, mostly poetry. At 31, I am a vegan, Quaker, divorcee without an undergraduate degree! Education is a luxury for which I am grateful every day, and hope to finish only with a final breath. In the meantime, Johnnies are always welcome."

MICHAEL A. BALDWIN (SFGI) is now a Program Manager for the Community Development Block Grant Program for the Local Government Division for the Department of Finance and Administration for the State of New Mexico.

JOSEPH WALTER STERLING IV (A) writes: "Since June 2000 I have had the privilege of working for Project H.O.M.E., a non-profit organization in Philadelphia dedicated to helping individuals break the cycle of homelessness. Being a part of this community has been the most extraordinary experience and blessing for me. I continue to work (slowly) on my doctoral thesis in philosophy at Emory U."

KEVIN JOHNSON (A) writes: "Even though I was never married, I can faithfully report that I am single again. And loving it."

Sarah Louise Horton Stilwell was born March 2, 2002 to **MILLICENT AND McDAVID STILWELL** (both A).

A YEAR IN TUSCANY

ANNE SCHUCHMAN (A) and **JAMES BERRETTINI** (AGI93) write: "We spent the past academic year living in a 16th century farmhouse on the outskirts of Florence, Italy. Anne had a Fulbright grant to do dissertation research on a 13th-century woman mystic and Jim quit his job and is currently a full-time dad to Samuel, now 3. We returned to New York (and to reality) in July. Baby #2 is expected in October so it looks like we're going to miss Homecoming (again). Maybe Croquet 2003? Anne can be reached at: ams8050@nyu.edu and Jim at jpb@alum.mit.edu.

LAURA ANNE STUART (A) writes: "I recently started a new job as the health educator for students at MIT. I am also a new member of the board of the Boston Women's Health Book Collective, Publishers of *Our Bodies, Ourselves*. This spring, I'll wrap up a sexuality education program for 7th and 8th graders that I've been teaching since last fall at the Cambridge Unitarian-Universalist Church. I spend most of my days and nights talking about sex, which is great!"

THOMAS HAMMERMAN (A) finished his master's degree in library science and is now the Hebrew monographic cataloger at University of Chicago.

The **ELLERMANS** write: "**ALEX** (AGI): Much to my amazement and chagrin, the Navy's promoting me to Lieutenant Commander this year; just in time for my resignation. We're planning to move back to the D.C. area, where I'll look for an airline job. **VANESSA** (A): I'm coming up on my 2nd year at my law firm here in Corpus Christi and I'm celebrating by taking up triathlon racing. I'm looking forward to finding a good law firm in the D.C. area and settling down for a while. Ian (SF22): I can count to four now!"

NANCY MARCUS (A) has been named the Director of the National Abortion Federation's Department of State Public Policy. She continues to live in the D.C. area with her cat Nicoless (whose name reflects Nancy's ongoing struggle to quit smoking). Nancy welcomes email from Johnnies at nmarcus@prochoice.org.

1994

MOSHEH VINEBERG (SF) writes: "I think an exciting life is accessible to everyone everywhere, wherever you find yourself, provided that you listen to your heart and make a little time each day or each week to cultivate your dream and life-purpose. My dream/purpose is to live as a Jew in Israel, build a family, learn Torah and make art."

KYLE LINZER (SF and EC95) is having a great time teaching dance and yoga at Rio Rancho High School, and "living world's religions" and philosophy for UNM. He'd love to hear from alumni. His email is Nikosdad@aol.com.

JEFFREY SPENCER WRIGHT (SFGI) writes: "I received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship last summer and so got to spend last summer in San Diego, California, as part of a six-week seminar titled "Greek Values in Crisis: Thucydides, Sophocles, and Plato." **PAT HARNETT** (SGI01) was also one of the 15 participants from around the United States. Marvelous experience!! Carmel High School's philosophy class, utilizing a real seminar method, continues to flourish. Motivated high school kids can read and think and conduct real seminars!"

PHOEBE MERRIN CARTER (SF) writes: My husband Greg and I had a baby boy in September, named Dylan Guthrie, and we are really enjoying being parents. I am the Youth Services manager for the Weber County Library System in Ogden, Utah. Since I'm out of touch with many of my old friends, I'd like to say hi to everyone. My e-mail address is pcarter@weber-pl.lib.ut.us."

ANTHONY CHIFFOLO'S (AGI) sixth book, *100 Names of Mary*, has just been published by St. Anthony Messenger Press.

1995

AARON FREDRICKSON (SF) writes: "I've had an eventful few years. The condensed version is that my wife and I have returned to my native soil in the San Francisco Bay Area after finishing law school and spending a mostly futile year in Virginia. I'd very much like to speak with any Johnny lawyers living in the area, as I'll be taking the bar this July and am curious about what is, by reputation, the hardest bar exam in the nation. Also, I'd love to speak with any current or former Johnnies contemplating law school;

TEXTS FOR TOTS

MIKE LAYNE (SF95) writes: "My wife, Rachael, and I have been married three years as of June 12, 2002. Our daughter, Audrey Rae Layne, was born on February 12, 2002, in Anchorage. I spend at least 30 minutes each day reading her sections of Rousseau's *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* and *Emile*. Marx is next on our reading list. We are still living in Barrow, Alaska, and I am working as a counselor at an emergency shelter for youth. Would love to hear from SJC alumni and tutors. You can email me at mike_layne@hotmail.com."

it's not as bad (or good) as you might expect! I can be reached at aefredrickson@rocketmail.com if any of you would like to get in touch.

JANET SUTHERLAND (SFGI) writes: "I finished seminary, moved to Kansas City, and started a church. Go figure. I'm also writing a book. My web site is www.churchofantioch.org/coakc.html or write me at suncliff@planetkc.com."

In August, **AARON BENJAMIN RUTHERFORD** (AGI) will begin his fourth year and his internship at Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee. His address is 543 Par Drive/ Apt. 12/ Marion, Arkansas 72364.

ANGELIKA FRANZ (SF) writes: "One among many things St. John's made me believe in was to follow one's call—which I already put into practice with my decision to leave the college after my freshman year. The fascination with Greeks and Romans, however, has never left me and led me to a PhD in classical archaeology last summer. After having done archaeology (among other things like waitressing and organizing humanitarian aid transports into Kosovo) for some nine years, the call to follow was something else St. John's made me believe in: the power of words. So I traded in the ancient stones for current events and am now working as a freelance journalist. I guess what still sums it up for me today, ten years after having left St. John's, are the four wise words of Mr. Aigla: 'Trust no one. Trust yourself. Read everything twice. Enjoy life.' Anyone who cares to spare a few words for

someone who remembers the people who shared her St. John's experience more fondly than you might imagine is welcome to do that at webmaster@franzworld.de."

SEAN STICKLE (A) writes: "I am in love with and married to a woman of profound excellence, who is applying to the Graduate Institute to acquire her own SJC-style education. On less important fronts, I am employed as the Senior Manager of Information Systems at the Corporation for Enterprise Development, a national nonprofit research and economic development outfit, where most of my time is taken up with the spectacular intricacies of XML routing and financial systems integration. I encourage any Johnnies who want to get into the bizarro world of IT/IS to drop me an email at stickle@cfed.org. The field needs more people who have read the *Posterior Analytics*. Really."

THEA AGNEW (SF) writes: "I'm self-employed as a consultant to rural communities, mostly working on planning community projects and seeking funding. Still living between Anchorage and McCarthy. Getting married this fall out in McCarthy. Saw **MIKE LAYNE** (SF) and Rachael, his wife, and his beautiful new baby Audrey. Will be seeing them again in Barrow later this month."

GIL ROTH's (AGI) publishing company, Voyant Publishing, has recently released two novels: Paul West's *The Place in Flowers Where Pollen Rests* and Samuel R. Delany's *The Mad Man*. He hopes to reissue Walter Pater's *On Plato and Platonism* in 2003.

SARAH VAN DEUSEN FLYNN (A) writes: "We are finishing our tour in Guam, which has been wonderful. In September 02, we are heading back to the D.C. area. I am leaving medical school for good to be with my two boys."

FAITH ECHELE (SF) writes: "I am currently teaching lower elementary, ages 6-9, at Henson Valley Montessori School in Temple Hills, Maryland. I would enjoy connecting with St. John's alumni in the Maryland/DC area. Also, Henson Valley Montessori is in need of Great Books discussion leaders. We are looking for people willing to volunteer once a week to guide literature discussions with elementary students."

TUCKER BRADDOCK (A) writes: Married an Aussie in Sydney in December 1998. Live in Annapolis, work in Washington making money. Daughter born December 2001: Ivy Elizabeth. 7 lbs. 13 oz... In case you're wondering, still interested in Jesus; haven't found Hinduism, Ms. Hack."

ROBERT A GAMMON II (SGIEC) graduated May 19 from the University of Hawaii with a PhD in East Asian Languages and Literatures (Chinese). His dissertation is titled "A common architecture for expressing linguistic theories: With illustrations from Chinese languages, cognitive grammar, and software engineering." He was selected to participate in a National Science Foundation summer program in Taiwan.

PATRICIA GREER (AGI) received a PhD from the University of Virginia in May, in history of religion. Her dissertation is titled "The Net of the Mahabharata." Ms. Greer is a tutor at St. John's in Santa Fe.

In December 2001 **BENJAMIN FRIEDMAN** (SF) earned his MFA in film and television production from the University of Southern California. He's living in L.A. and looking for a job in the entertainment industry.

TRACY WHITCOMB (A) and **JOSH SILBERSTEIN** (A94) are now

engaged. They're planning a fall 2003 wedding.

1996

ADRIEN DAWSON nee Gehring (A) finished seminary in May and was ordained in June at the Baltimore Episcopal Cathedral. She and her husband, Sean, moved from NYC to the Towson area following graduation. Adrien is now the assistant rector at Trinity Church, Towson, Md.

AMY JANE KING (SF), formerly Amy Jane Borsick-Stanton, writes: "I am back in NM, studying Spanish and silversmithing, making arts and crafts. I am also a balloon twister, you know, I make balloon animals."

EZRA NATHANIEL HUBBARD (SF) writes: "After making movies in L.A. and New York, met wife on tropical island of Hawaii and got married June 23, 2001 in St. Louis, Missouri. Now live in Taos, New Mexico, where we are very happy—would love to have any alums come and stay with us."

1997

SALVATORE SCIBONA (SF) received a Pushcart Prize for one of his short stories. It was published in the *Pushcart Book of Short Stories: the Best Stories from a Quarter-Century of the Pushcart Prize* in January. Salvatore is currently a Fiction Fellow at The Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Mass.

LESLIE NORTON (AGI) is unemployed at the moment. She is trying to change careers from teaching to working for an international aid organization. If you read this and you can help, feel free to contact her. She's in the SJC Alumni Directory. Leslie is in touch with Aaron Mannes who spends his days writing serious stuff about the Middle East (he's looking for a job too) and she also remains in contact with George Strawley—he's still working for AP in Penna.

ARTIST INYA LASKOWSKI (SFGI) showed her work at two solo shows in 2002: Gallery Route One, Point Reyes, Calif. (encaustic miniatures) and Sebastopol Center for the Arts, Sebastopol, Calif. (recent work). She will also exhibit in a two-person show at Pacific Union College, Angwin, Calif. in September as well as several group shows throughout the year. She says her art is moving into a new phase because she now has use of a large press.

JEHANNE DUBROW (A) is currently at the University of Maryland working on an MFA in poetry. She attended writing workshops at the University of Prague this past summer.

JILL NIENHISER (SFGI) is now the Director of Writing and Web Development at Mind & Media, Inc. in Alexandria, Virginia.

1998

STEPHEN CONN (SF) found himself in New York City for most of 2001-2002, involved in film and art studies, as well as being an intern with the Pulse Theatre. While studying at the New York Film Academy he made three short films, two of which relate to September 11, while the third is a little vignette which features Steve as the main character. These films were recently shown at an underground film event in New York City. There is a copy of these three short films on VHS in Meem Library at St. John's College in Santa Fe. He sends his love to all his old friends at St. John's.

DAVID TURNEY (AGI) writes: "Wife Stephanie (Bardis) recently gave birth to our first child, Christopher David. I gave up France and goat cheese adventures for a career in scientific publishing with Reed-Elsevier. Contact us: writerscramp@worldnet.att.net."

MARJORIE ROUECHE (A) writes: "We are expecting a baby girl, though we're still working on a befitting Greek name."

LARISSA N. PARSON (A) is still in grad school—slowly working toward her Classics Ph.D. She's taken up running marathons.

DIANE MARIE SHIRES (SFGI) and **CHRISTOPHER PATRICK ENGLISH** (SFGI97) were happily married on December 27, 2001 on Santa Catalina Island, Avalon, Calif. They note that this was 125 years to the day Darwin set off aboard the HMS Beagle. **TRICIA DAIGLE** (SFGI97) was in attendance.

BILLY SOTHERN and **NIKKI PAGE** (both A) were married in their garden at their home in New Orleans, La. on March 30, 2002.

DAWN STAR BORCHELT (A) sends what she calls a silly rhyme: "Though I live not far away/To Annapolis, I rarely stray./Early Autumn, Early Spring/Never work. You see the thing/Is that work requires my presence/Most often at these times of year./Alas my fond, fond alma mater—/Many moons shall pass'ere I draw near."

LORNA ANDERSON (SF) became Lorna Johnson on May 25, when she married Aaron Johnson at the Woman's Club of Evanston in Evanston, Illinois. Aaron is a classical pianist who received his master's degree in music performance from Northwestern University in 1993 and has been performing original and classical compositions in the Midwest and east coast. Lorna is pursuing publication of her poetry in various journals and has become an active member of RHINO: The Poetry Forum, an annual poetry journal based in Evanston. She welcomes anyone passing through Chicago, and can be reached at velvet_60626@yahoo.com.

1999

PAUL RONCO (SF) writes: "Hi all, hope everything is going well for you out there in the real world. What more should I say? The Army was fun, St. John's was funner [sic]. Drop me a line at prnco@hotmail.com anytime."

CHERYL HUFF (AGI) writes: "I am living in Scotland with my 3-year-old son, Gabriel, who was born a week after graduation. I am working on an M. Litt in Shakespeare Studies at the University of St. Andrew's and love this town by the sea. I would love to hear from any St. John's alumni in Great Britain."

TRACY NECROUX (A) graduated from St. Andrews in June. She's now living in Illinois and hopes to begin teaching soon.

GREG W. KOEHLERT (SF) writes: "Moved from Atlanta to New York City in June. Teaching in an LD High School—English, History, Outdoor Education, and yes, Euclid Book 1."

RUTH BUSCO (SF) writes: "I am currently enrolled at the Traditional Acupuncture Institute in Columbia, Md., where I am pursuing a master's degree in acupuncture. I will start seeing patients in September—anyone in the area interested in the institute or in acupuncture treatment please feel free to contact me by phone 410-312-0991 or email (rmbusco@hotmail.com)!"

2000

ABIGAIL WEINBERG (SF) has been accepted into a masters program at the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University.

ANDREW BURGARD (SF) is attending an intensive Czech language program at Indiana University.

ANNE BERVEN (SF), **ALEXIS BROWN** (SF), and **RAIFE NEUMAN** (SF01), will not leave the college. Mr. Neuman is constantly outside smoking, contemplating which office he will work for. Ms. Brown is attempting to finish the EC program and her last pack of cigarettes. Ms. Berven is communing with the young minds of America while she attempts to find her car keys.

EOWYN LEVENE (A) has been working in an organic, brick-oven bakery

for the past year or so and has recently spent a few months traveling in New Zealand. She is beginning a two-year apprenticeship to get her diploma in biodynamic agriculture. She will be doing this at a community for the mentally disabled in Gloucestershire, England.

PAUL SPRADLEY (A) writes: "Hello ya'll! I'm still teaching math in the Mississippi Delta and am fixin' to graduate from the University of Mississippi with a master's degree in curriculum and instruction. In addition to my teaching duties I have been made head baseball coach. Unfortunately, that sport was not well covered in intramurals in Annapolis."

ANNA MARISSA ABBOTT (SF) writes: "I am interested in knowing about job opportunities in Santa Fe. I'm currently working part-time at a Sylvan Learning Center (as I have been for the past year). Hello Kelsey Bennett, wherever you are, I hope you are happy. **JENNIFER ROGERS**, **MATTHEW DUFFY**, and **KATHY PLUTH**—I send you my regards and God bless..."

KARINA NOEL HEAN (A) writes: "I am moving back to New Mexico to start an MFA program in fall 2002 at NMSU in Las Cruces. Feel free to stop by for a visit! Have had a lot of luck getting artist residencies, one in Harper's Ferry, W.V. and one at VSC, Vt. And a few small shows. (P.S. did not go to Amsterdam, not enough \$\$.) email: karinahean@hotmail.com"

CHRISTOPHER VAUGHAN (A) recently visited **FLETCHER CUNNIFF** (A) in Catonsville. Christopher writes: "I'm attending and loving every minute of Flagler College. I hope to get my degree in deaf education by 2005. All of my former classmates are in my prayers. If anyone is near St. Augustine let me know. I would love to hear from any alums. Best wishes to old friends like **TIM FREEMAN** (A01), **ADELLA FAY** (SF), **PAUL NINO** (A), and **CLAUDINE CRISTOFORIDES** (A). At first I was bitter about getting disabled. Now I am just proud of the time I had with you all at such a wonderful school!"

ALICE BALDWIN (SF) writes: "I hope everyone is well!"

ALAN RUBENSTEIN (A) won a University Fellowship to study linguistics at Georgetown University this fall.

LIZZIE JUMP (A) writes: "I just finished a year of service to Volunteer Maryland (an AmeriCorps program) in Baltimore at the Neighborhood Design Center. I'm probably going to move to North Carolina and start working towards a master's degree in psychology. Folks should feel free to email me if they've questions about AmeriCorps." Lizzie's email is iameloise@yahoo.com.

WYATT DOWLING (A) writes: "I just finished my first year of graduate school at Boston College in the political science department. **ERIC DEMPSEY** (A00) is here too and two other Johnnies, **STEVE IDE** (SF01) and **JONATHAN CULP** (A01) are starting grad school at BC in the

fall. I thought four alumni in one department was strange enough to be worth noting."

2001

EBEN LASKER (SF) writes: "Looking forward to retirement. Big ups and much love coming out of Crimebridge."

TALLEY SCROGGS (A) writes: "Upon finishing my seven weeks as a "debutante" student at L'Ecole Francaise at Middlebury College my goal was to move to France. Following my budding passion for food as an object of study and of course immense pleasure, I found an apprenticeship with a French-trained American chef and teacher named Robert Reynolds. From March to May 2002 I'll be living in Montequieu, France, going to markets and cooking regional cuisine. I have yet to plan the next move—leaving my desire to plan behind

so that I may really focus on this opportunity. I'll most likely try to make a move into journalism and catering when I return. If I return."

IAN MULLET (SF) and **BEN JUDSON** (SF) are both teaching in San Antonio, Tex. at Judson Montessori School, which is run by Ben's parents, **JAMES JUDSON** (SFG195) and Gay Judson.

BASIL BRYAN THORPE CLEVELAND (A) writes: "I will gladly host any Johnnies passing through the Chicago area—I've got a futon and some floor space you can borrow just for the asking."

JOEL HOPKINS (SF) is working in a program for troubled youth in Santa Fe right now. He took courses in art history at Tulane University and at the College of Santa Fe. He has received a scholarship to pursue an MA in art history and criticism at SUNY Stonybrook starting this fall.

CALLING ALL ALUMNI

The College wants to hear from you. Call us, write us, e-mail us. Let your classmates know what you're doing. The next issue will be published in December; copy deadline is October 15.

IN ANNAPOLIS:

The College Magazine, St. John's College, Box 2800, Annapolis, MD 21404; s-borden@sjca.edu.

IN SANTA FE:

The College Magazine, St. John's College, Public Relations Office, 1160 Camino Cruz Blanca, Santa Fe, NM 87505-4599; classics@mail.sjcsf.edu.

ALUMNI NOTES ON THE WEB:

Read Alumni Notes and contact The College on the web at: www.sjca.edu - click on "Alumni."

{ OBITUARIES }

ROGERS ALBRITTON

Rogers Albritton, class of 1945, a professor of philosophy at University of California at Los Angeles and at Harvard, died on May 21. He was 78.

Mr. Albritton was born in Columbus, Ohio, to a physiologist and a chemist. He began his studies at St. John's but left to serve in the Army Air Forces in World War II. He returned and graduated in 1948. Mr. Albritton received a master's and a doctorate in philosophy from Princeton. He taught at Harvard from 1956 until 1970, and was chair of the philosophy department for seven years. He then taught at UCLA until retiring in 1991.

Mr. Albritton has been praised for the breadth and depth of his philosophical interests, which included ancient philosophy, philosophy of mind, free will, skepticism, metaphysics, and the work of Ludwig Wittgenstein. At St. John's, his senior thesis defended lyric poetry from logical positivism. Although he did not publish much, he was nevertheless widely known and admired in the academic world. A colleague at UCLA, Gavin Lawrence, wrote in an obituary, "Rogers had the finest philosophical mind I have ever encountered. He never rushed to a facile answer and was a wonderful sounding board." Mr. Albritton was awarded the Alumni

Association Award of Merit in 1995. He is survived by his sister, Heloise Frame.

PAUL KROL

Paul G. Krol (A76) died in May. He was a loved and respected international businessman. He was fluent in German and Polish and spoke some Spanish, Korean, and Japanese. He was financially responsible for the building of the Southwest CARE Medical Center in Santa Fe.

Paul was a computer engineer who published the book *ORCAD Capture*, a text used to teach the teachers in that industry. He also wrote many poems and short stories.

Paul spent half of his life volunteering and giving to others. After being diagnosed with a terminal illness, he requested permission from Catholic schools in New Mexico to talk to students about death and dying. His talks were so successful they have been published in a book.

Although he was only 47 years of age, he affected so many people in the world in such a positive way, that I have no doubt there is a "new star" in Heaven.

—submitted by Ron Moar

H. RALPH LEWIS

H. Ralph Lewis, a former tutor in Santa Fe, died in March in Hanover, N.H. Born in Chicago, he

was a physicist who studied at the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois, and the University of Heidelberg. In 1963 he joined the staff at Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he worked on the controlled thermonuclear fusion project. He taught at St. John's and then at Dartmouth, where he was on the physics faculty.

Mr. Lewis is survived by his wife, Renate; two daughters, and a sister.

ADMIRAL ROBERT LONG

Adm. Robert Long, commander in chief of U.S. military forces in the Pacific and a former member of the Board of Visitors and Governors, died June 28 at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. He was 82 and lived in Annapolis.

Born in Kansas City, Mo., Robert Lyman John Long graduated in 1943 from the U.S. Naval Academy. He served during World War II in the Pacific. In 1972, Adm. Long was named commander of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet Submarine Force and vice chief of naval operations. He saw combat in the Vietnam War. He headed the American military forces in the Pacific from 1979 to 1983, when he retired. Soon after retiring, he was called to assist President Ronald Reagan and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who asked him to lead the commission

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THE TWENTY YEARS' WAR

Johnnies reclaim the Annapolis Cup, bringing the croquet series to 16 and 4.

BY SUSAN BORDEN (A87)

The opening shots of the St. John's–Naval Academy croquet series have long been the subject of speculation and rumor. Some say the first match was the result of a barroom bet. Others say it was a last-minute substitute for a barroom brawl. The truth, says Kevin Heyburn (SF86), was much more simple—and peaceful.



STEPHANIE HARVEY

THE FEW, THE PROUD, THE VICTORIOUS: THE 2002 SJC TEAM.

It was 1981 and Heyburn, then a freshman in Annapolis, was curious about the Naval Academy. He and a friend went to the academy's pep rally for the Army-Navy game. On the way back to St. John's, they found themselves walking behind the Commandant of the academy. "Being a bold fresh-

man, I started to talk with him," Heyburn recalls. "I told him that in the old days, St. John's had quite an athletic program and would often beat Navy at sports like football and lacrosse. The Commandant said that now there was no sport where the St. John's students could beat Navy."

After Heyburn returned to campus, he remembered that several students had been playing croquet and that they were pretty good, so he decided to challenge the academy. "My main aim was to get the two groups of students together and my hope is that the match is still a way to foster better relations between the two schools," he says.

And so it has happened. The spirit of the match has remained, more or less, one of peaceful camaraderie. The team uniforms (footloose and fanciful for the Johnnies, campy-casual for the Mids) bespeak a playful rivalry, not war games. The crowd's attention is on picnicking, not the scoreboard. And the goodwill that the opponents display after each match is no clenched-teeth affair, but rather a hearty handshake for a job well done.

At this year's match (in April), however, there was just the hint of a martial edge to the Johnnies' attitude. The Middies had won last year's match, breaking a nine-year St. John's winning streak. An article in the *Washington Post* quoted senior Louis Kovacs announcing before the match, "I'm out for blood. I'm out to hurt people and humiliate them."

Newly inaugurated Santa Fe president John Balkcom hit out the opening ball. Next the freshman chorus, under the direction of tutor Tom May, in an apparent welcome to our comrades-in-croquet, launched into a stirring rendition of the Navy Hymn:

*Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea.*

As the chorus sang the next two verses (penned by Tanya Hadlock Piltz, AO5), their loyalties became clear:

*Oh Johnnies who do play
croquet,
Protect our honor on this day.
Our battle cry: Let Middies kneel!
To them the form of Good reveal.
Oh hear us when we boldly say
Defeat the Middies at croquet!
Oh ye who books do seldom read
Your unexamined lives concede
Beware each Middy girl and boy;
We are the Danaans to your Troy!
Oh hear us when we boldly say
Defeat the Middies at croquet!*



The Johnnies on the field proceeded to answer the pleas of the singers, shutting out the Middies 5-0 before a crowd of over 1000, including more than 300 alumni.

Throughout the day the alumni tent was a locus of meeting and

greeting, offering its now-traditional menu of cucumber sandwiches, college-logo chocolates, and champagne. Tote bags with an image of a Greek-style statue playing croquet on front campus wearing nothing but Birkenstocks and a fig leaf were prized souvenir giveaways.

The games ended just before 5:00 and the alumni office packed up its champagne and chocolates at 6:00. But the crowds, enjoying the spirit of croquet and the thrill of victory, lingered on the lawn until dark.

Congratulations go to Imperial Wicket Jon Polk, next year's Wicket Ben Porter, and team members Lucas Ford, Nick Whittier, Mike Maguire, Jon Cooper, Lou Kovacs, Tom Juskevich, Peter Speers, and Terry Duvall. ❀

{ OBITUARIES }

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to investigate the bombing of the marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. The commission looked into security lapses in its fact-finding mission on the incident, in which a terrorist drove a truck laden with explosives into the barracks, killing 241 marines.

He served on the St. John's Board from 1986 to 1992. Later, he maintained his ties to the college by encouraging the croquet rivalry between St. John's students and the residents of the retirement community of Ginger Cove, where he served as chair of the community association.

He is survived by his wife, Sara, and his three sons, Charles, William, and Robert.

ROBERT E. PARR

Robert E. Parr, a former tutor in Santa Fe, died Sept. 11, 2001 in Ada, Oklahoma. He was 77. Mr. Parr taught music at St. John's and was a life-long musician and active in theater. Born in Norman, Oklahoma, he graduated from the University of Oklahoma. During World War II he served in the military in Europe. After the war, he studied at Yale with German composer Paul Hindemith, then moved to San Francisco, where he received a master's degree in composition from the University of California, Berkeley. He taught at Candell Conservatory and at private schools in New Mexico and St. Louis, in

addition to St. John's. He also ran a wheat farm in Oklahoma, raised Arabians, and enjoyed his involvement with puppet opera. Mr. Parr is survived by his lifemate, Dianne Stowers.

CHARLES WALLACE

Charles "Charlie" Wallace, the superintendent of buildings and grounds for the Annapolis campus for many years, died in April. Mr. Wallace was born in Baltimore and served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. He worked as a construction superintendent for Dunton, Inc. for 20 years, building many public schools in Maryland. He retired from his job at St. John's in 1998.

Surviving are his wife, Emily; two sons, Charles and William; one daughter, Lisa Delasko; a sister, and six grandchildren.

JOHN WIRTH

A long-time Board member of St. John's College, John Wirth passed away on June 20. He was 66.

Mr. Wirth and his wife, Nancy Meem Wirth, were active members of the college for many years. Beginning with the donation by Nancy's parents, Faith and John Gaw Meem, of the land for the Santa Fe campus and continuing into the present with their involvement on the faculty housing project, their dedication to the mission of St. John's has always been exemplary. Mr.

Wirth served as vice chairman of the Board of Visitors and Governors, and worked on the California property project.

Mr. Wirth was born in Dawson, New Mexico in 1936. He graduated from Harvard University in 1958 and received his doctorate in Latin American History in 1967 from Stanford University. He served in the army in 1958-59. He was the recipient of numerous awards, prizes, and fellowships related to his expertise in Latin American history. He commuted weekly to teach undergraduate courses in contemporary Brazilian history, environmental history, and Canadian history at Stanford University where he held the Gildred Chair of History. He retired from Stanford in June.

He founded and was president of the North American Institute, based in Santa Fe. The international organization is dedicated to better relations between Mexico, Canada, and the United States. A prolific writer, his latest book is *Smelter Smoke in North America: The Politics of Transborder Pollution*. He recently completed a history of the Los Alamos Ranch School, which will be published shortly by the University of New Mexico Press.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy Meem Wirth; sons, Peter, Tim and Nicholas; and four grandchildren.

LETTER FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Dear Johnnies,

What does it mean to “come home?” For most colleges and universities, Homecoming means football, old haunts, a few old friends, and lots of people you hardly remembered the day after graduation. At St. John's, Homecoming is some of those things, and many more.

It might mean coming back to a place that smells and looks and feels not so different from when you left it. Homecoming might also mean visiting a place you've never been. If you spent your college years in Santa Fe, you might just as well enjoy Homecoming on the water and in the midst of colonial red brick in Annapolis. If Annapolis was the locus of your personal memories, you might also come home to the wonderful mountains and desert sunsets of Santa Fe. The places, though both beautiful and significant, are not the essence of Homecoming for Johnnies.

Yes, you'll see old friends, especially if you choose a Homecoming for one of your class's special five-year reunions. But even if you come when other classes are having their reunions, you will still see old friends—tutors, staff, members of classes before and after yours. The community on each campus is surprisingly constant with the familiar names and faces scattered among the new ones. Chances are that you'll also meet new “old friends,” including many who are familiar because they shared the experience of reading and talking about the same books in the same ways that you did. Every time I return—whether

to Santa Fe or Annapolis—I discover interesting and stimulating people whose history makes them part of an intellectual and institutional family. The family resemblance is striking, regardless of when or where or for how long they lived in the Program.

The Homecoming Dinner last October in Annapolis was an excellent example for me of the cross-generational nature of the Johnnie experience. According to tradition, after dinner is served and awards are presented, each reunion class gives a toast. Sometimes the toasts are funny and sometimes they are poignant, and last year was no exception on this count. It was an exception, however, because all of the toasts revolved around a theme very near to each of us on that evening, just three weeks after September 11. Each class toast reflected, as only Johnnies can, on the meaning of the college in the wake of our national trauma. Classes from the '40s remembered the disruption of their lives during World War II. Classes of the '50s talked about what it meant when women entered the campus as fellow students. The '60s reflected on a rediscovery of patriotism that had not been part of their early engagement with the world. The '70s talked of Vietnam and the dissent that war introduced to personal and social self-knowledge. Classes of the '80s and '90s opened our eyes to a generation that approaches self and institution with confidence and assumed security. Together, the toasts framed a social history of America from the point of view of thoughtful and admirable individuals. For me, it was a touching and powerful message about my self, my community, and my nation.

But most of all, for me, Homecoming is coming home to the books. There is always a formal time when alumni and guests meet in official seminars to inquire together as we did in the old days. Sometimes the books are different, and usually the tutors and students are different, but always the experience is the same. I come to the table with certainties and questions and leave with fewer certainties and more questions. My real measure of a good seminar is whether it inspires me to read the text again. Seldom does a seminar fail to meet this expectation. Just like our student

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Whether from Annapolis or Santa Fe, undergraduate or Graduate Institute, Old Program or New, graduated or not, all alumni have automatic membership in the St. John's College Alumni Association. The Alumni Association is an independent organization, with a Board of Directors elected by and from the alumni body. The Board meets four times a year, twice on each campus, to plan programs and coordinate the affairs of the Association. This newsletter within *The College* magazine is sponsored by the Alumni Association and communicates Alumni Association news and events of interest.

President – Glenda Eoyang, SF76

Vice President – Jason Walsh, A85

Secretary – Barbara Lauer, SF76

Treasurer – Bill Fant, A79

Getting-the-Word-Out Action Team Chair – Linda Stabler-Talty (SFGI76)

Web site – www.sjca.edu/aassoc/main.phtml

Mailing address – Alumni Association, St. John's College, Box 2800, Annapolis, MD 21404 or 1160 Camino Cruz Blanca, Santa Fe, NM 87505-4599.

days, however, coming home to the books is not restricted to the time around the table. Informal conversations over food, drink, or dance remind me of the well-grounded conversations of my student days. Themes emerge and common referents are invoked. The conversations are decidedly different from those I have day-to-day, and they feed my curiosity and my ever-developing view of the world and myself.

Homecoming is an opportunity to revisit whatever lives in your memory of your days at St. John's. It is also an invitation to reflect on current aspirations and activities in the context of personal, institutional, and intellectual history. I hope that you will plan to join the next Homecoming party, and I hope you find, as I have, that coming home is a richly varied experience that transforms memories of the past into reality of today and hopes for tomorrow. See you there!

For the past, the present, and the future,

Glenda Eoyang

President

St. John's College Alumni Association

ELECTION NOTICES

Election of Alumni Representatives to the St. John's College Board of Visitors and Governors

In accordance with Article VIII, Section II of the By-Laws of the St. John's College Alumni Association, notice is hereby given that the following alumni have been nominated by the Alumni Association Board of Directors for election to the St. John's College Board of Visitors and Governors.

Notice is also given that nominations may be made by petition.

The rules governing submission of nominations by petition are as follows:

- Petitions must be signed by at least fifty members of the Alumni Association in good standing.
- Nominations must be accompanied by a biographical sketch of the nominee.
- The consent of all persons nominated must be obtained.
- The petition must reach the Directors of Alumni Activities NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1, 2002.

c/o Alumni Office
St. John's College
P.O. Box 2800
Annapolis, MD 21404

If nominations by petition are received, there will be an election conducted by mail ballot. If there are no such nominations, the nominees listed above will be considered elected. Terms will begin in July of 2003.

Robert Bienenfeld SF'80

LONG BEACH, CA

The Senior Manager of Product Planning for American Honda Motor Co. Inc., Mr. Bienenfeld is responsible for planning the vehicle line ups for Acura and Honda cars and trucks in the U.S. In addition, he is responsible for the sales and marketing of electric, natural gas, hybrid and, believe it or not, fuel cell automobiles. In addition, he serves on Honda's Environment Committee for the Americas, and operates a small venture capital operation for American Honda.

Mr. Bienenfeld has worked for Honda for 21 years in a variety of areas in the U.S. as well as Japan. Mr. Bienenfeld served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors from 1998, and more recently on the Board of Visitors and Governors since July of 2000. He served as the president of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Alumni Association in the early eighties. In addition, Mr. Bienenfeld helped organize alumni to support the Campaign for Our Fourth Century.

Thomas Stern SF'69

PALO ALTO, CA

Mr. Stern has been involved with motion picture production since receiving an MA from Stanford University in 1971. In 1981 he began his association with Malpas Productions at Warner Brothers, Clint Eastwood's production company. Mr. Stern works as a lighting consultant, and has been responsible for the lighting more than 40 feature-length motion pictures including "Risky Business", "Pale Rider," "Goonies," "Bird, The Unforgiven," "Space Cowboys," and "True Crime."

Steve Thomas SF'74

NEW YORK, NY

Following a few years as a computer operator, Mr. Thomas spent the academic year 1976-77 in graduate school at the University

of Texas at Austin, in the Ancient Philosophy program. Remaining in Austin, Texas, but dropping out of graduate school, he worked as a computer operator by day and became active in local and state politics as a gay activist. In 1980, Mr. Thomas was named as an at-large alternate delegate to the National Democratic Convention, which means that he gets holiday cards from the White House whenever it is occupied by a Democrat. He proceeded to attend the University of Texas School of Law, initially to acquire credentials for his political career, when he discovered an actual interest in the law. He served on the *Texas Law Review* and was a member of Chancellors, which is the highest honor society based on grades at the school. He graduated with honors in 1984. He then moved to New York City, where he has been admitted to the bar since 1985. He worked as an associate at the Wall Street law firm of Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen and Hamilton from 1985 through 1991, and since 1991 has been employed by Financial Security Assurance (a monoline bond insurance company), most recently as associate general counsel. Mr. Thomas has also been involved since 1989 with HIV Law Project, an organization that provides legal assistance and advocacy to low income people infected with HIV, for most of those years in



GREAT MOMENTS IN CROQUET HISTORY (CIRCA 1985): ST. JOHN'S TEAMMATES (L-R) DAVID KIDD (A85), ANDREW BECKMAN (A87), STEVEN WERLIN (A85) AND BRYCE JACOBSEN (CLASS OF 1942) POSE WITH THE ANNAPOLIS CUP AND MIDDIE RIVALS.

his current capacity as chair of the Board of Directors. Since 2000 he has served on the SJC Alumni Association board. Mr. Thomas is a fanatical opera fan, and is devoted to the New York Mets. In his spare time he still, believe it or not, reads philosophy books; and he still doesn't understand Plato.

Election of Directors of the St. John's College Alumni Association

In accordance with Article VII, Sections I and II of the By-Laws of the St. John's College Alumni Association, notice is hereby given that the following alumni have been nominated to serve as directors on the St. John's College Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Notice is also given that nominations for the positions as officers and directors of the Association may be made by petition.

The rules governing submission of nominations by petition are as follows:

- Petitions must be signed by at least thirty members of the Alumni Association in good standing.
- Petitions must be presented to the Secretary of the Alumni Association prior to the Annual Meeting at which the election is to be held. Petitions should be sent to Barbara Lauer, c/o Alumni Office, St. John's College, P.O. Box 2800, Annapolis, MD 21404.
- The election will be held at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 5, at 1:45 p.m. in Annapolis.
- The candidates for Directors receiving the highest number of votes for those offices shall be declared elected. Terms will begin on January 1, 2002.

Mark Middlebrook A'83

OAKLAND, CA

Mr. Middlebrook currently is testing the truth of the well-worn dictum "in vino veritas," as well as his hopeful corollary "in vino pecunia." He has worked in the wine industry in Oakland, California, for a year. As he waits for both truth and money to flow from oenophilic endeavors, he continues his mercenary masquerade as a computer consultant. In addition, he teaches literature and philosophy seminars at St. Mary's

College of California. When he isn't too busy juggling three jobs, he enjoys playing flamenco guitar and oud.

Jonathan Sackson A'69

MIAMI, FLORIDA

MBA in Finance, Wharton, 1982. Mr. Sackson worked in various controller and finance positions at Ryder System (1982-1989) and served as Vice President and Controller of the Bekins Corporation (1982-1992). Since 1992, he has been an investment advisor to private and institutional clients in Miami, Florida. He is currently Senior Vice President at UBS PaineWebber. Mr. Sackson has served as an at large member of the Alumni Board since 1999. For many years he has functioned as liaison to South Florida applicants to St. John's. He was also Class Chair for the Campaign for Our Fourth Century.

C. Frank Davis SFGI'93

SANTA FE, NM

Mr. Davis has a BA in economics/government from the University of Texas (1958), and he completed the Small Company Management Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Business in 1981. From 1963 to 1969 he was a broker for Bache and Co. in Corpus Christi, Texas and from 1969 to 1998 served as the Chief Executive Officer of Whataburger of El Paso, Inc. and Taco Cabana of El Paso. In El Paso he has served on the boards of Renaissance 400, the Radford School for Girls, and the Bank of the West, and has also served on the board of the Texas Nature Conservancy. He has traveled extensively in Africa, Europe, and Asia, and has participated in several Earthwatch projects in Nepal and Thailand, as well as flying his own Cessna 185 for Wings of Hope in Guatemala and Nicaragua, for Lighthawk, and for local Santa Fe conservation organizations. He volunteers in the Santa Fe public schools, and has been a longtime participant in Summer Classics and Community Seminars at the college.

Gary Edwards SF'79

ARLINGTON, VA

Surgical oncology physician assistant, Washington Cancer Institute, Washington Hospital Center, 1995 to present. Surgical physician assistant, Sibley Memorial Hos-

pital, Washington, D.C. 1990-1995. B.S. Physician Assistant program, The George Washington University 1990. Medical transcriptionist, The Neurology Center, Washington, D.C. 1984-1990. Customer service representative, Tulsa Oklahoma 1981-1984. Reporter KLMN television, Fayetteville, Arkansas 1980-1981. Editorial Assistant, National Review magazine, summer 1979. Participated in class fundraising efforts Campaign for Our Fourth Century. Co-class leader Philanthropia 1999. Appointed interim member SJC Alumni Board member 3/02.

Joanne Murray, A'70

PITTSBURGH, PA

Ms. Murray took her PhD in solid state physics at the University of Maryland and gradually slid into a profession in metallurgy at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (1977-1986) and then Alcoa Technical Center. Although she is a confirmed theorist, she also takes great pleasure in donning steel-toed shoes and hard hat and heading out to the plant floor where aluminum is being melted, cast, and rolled. At Alcoa, she is leader of the Alcoa Technical Center Women's Network and president-elect of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society. She maintains ties with the college through local alumni seminars, the summer sessions in Santa Fe, and the online Johnny-list.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

In accordance with Article XIII Section 1 of The St. John's College Alumni Association By-Laws (as amended 9/29/01), notice is hereby given that certain proposed amendments to the by-laws (to Article III, Section III; Article IV, Sections II, II a, II b, II d, II e, II g, II i, VI; Article V; Article VII, Section I; Article VIII, Section V; Article X; and Article XIV) will be considered by the membership of the Association and brought to a vote at the Annual Meeting, 1:45pm, Saturday, October 5, 2002, in the Conversation Room in Annapolis. These proposed amendments are posted at <http://www.sjca.edu/aassoc/main.phtml> (see navigation sidebar). Call the Alumni Office in Annapolis (410-626-2531) if you prefer to receive a copy via mail or fax.



Jack Landau (top, class of '44) and James Waranch (class of '43) undoubtedly had a memorable year rooming together. But not everyone ends up a winner in the roommate lottery. Luckily, the odds are good for freshmen arriving this fall. Andrew Ranson, director of Student Services on the Annapolis campus, puts a great deal of thought into the roommates he matches: "We have a roommate questionnaire we send out," he says. "When they all come back we throw them on the floor and start

picking them up. The ones that stick together, we put in the same room."

Seriously, though, Ranson's method is rather more effective. The roommate form asks a series of questions relating to smoking practices, sleeping habits, noise tolerance, and inclination towards neatness or slobery. Ranson enters the answers into a computer for an initial match-up. Then, he looks at answers to a more general question asking if there's anything else he should know about the respondent's ideal roommate. "I get the best and easiest matches from that ques-

tion," says Ranson. "When two people mention they play instruments, say that they're religious, talk about their interest in travel, or note that they're vegans, we put them together and it usually works out well."

Some answers to the "anything else" question, he says, are so vague and subjective as to be unhelpful. Incoming freshmen might say they want a cool roommate or a laid back room-mate, or someone who's not a moron. "We took the moron question off the questionnaire a couple of years ago," Ranson says. ✦

Homecoming 2002—Annapolis

Friday, October 4—Sunday, October 6

Reunion Classes: 1937, 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, and 1997

Homecoming Highlights

Friday, October 4

- Homecoming Lecture by Eva Brann (HA89): "The Empires of the Sun and the West"
- Career Panel
- Wine and Cheese with the Class of 2003 in the Dining Hall
- Rock Party in the Boathouse

Saturday, October 5

- Saturday Morning Seminars
- Homecoming Picnic and Reunion Class Luncheons
- Mitchell Gallery Tour: "The Sweet Uses of Adversity: Images of the Biblical Job"
- Classes of 87 and 88 Pick-Up Basketball Extravaganza (all alumni are invited)
- Freshman Chorus Revisited led by Tom May
- Alumni-Student Soccer Classic
- Bookstore Autograph Party
- Tour of the Renovated Mellon Hall
- Cocktail Party in the Great Hall and McDowell Classrooms
- Homecoming Banquet: Candace Brightman (A67) and Howard Zeiderman (A67) will receive the Alumni Association Award of Merit; John Sarkissian, Robert Williamson, and Al Toft will be recognized as new Honorary Alumni
- Waltz Party in the Great Hall
- Rock Party in the Coffee Shop

Sunday, October 6

- Champagne Brunch at the President's House



PHILANTHROPIA, THE ALUMNI GROUP THAT WORKS ON FUNDRAISING FOR THE COLLEGE, SPONSORED A COCKTAIL PARTY AT THE BROWN PALACE HOTEL IN DENVER IN JUNE. THIS WAS THE GROUP'S SECOND EVENT; THE FIRST TOOK PLACE LAST DECEMBER IN NEW YORK CITY. STEF TAKACS, A89 (PICTURED ABOVE), EVENTS CHAIR FOR PHILANTHROPIA, FAMILIARIZED THOSE GATHERED WITH THE ROLE OF PHILANTHROPIA AND ITS GOAL OF INFORMING ALUMNI ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING THE COLLEGE. THE DENVER/BOULDER CHAPTER OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATED IN THE EVENT, WITH LEE GOLDSTEIN, LIZ JENNY, AND CRAIG SIRKIN CHOOSING THE ELEGANT LOCATION. NOT THAT JOHNNIES WOULD NEED THE PERFECT SETTING FOR CONVERSATION TO TAKE PLACE....

JOHN BALKCOM (SFCI 00), PRESIDENT OF THE SANTA FE CAMPUS, INITIATED A LIVELY DISCUSSION AMONG ALMOST 50 ALUMNI ABOUT THE CURRENT STATE OF THE COLLEGE. "THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE," HE SAID. "ENROLLMENT IS STRONG; WE ARE DOING FINE FINANCIALLY—ALTHOUGH WE COULD DO BETTER. THE QUALITY OF CONVERSATION IN THE CLASSROOM IS SUPERB. WHENEVER I LOSE SIGHT OF WHAT WE ARE HERE TO DO I GO SIT IN THE DINING HALL AND A HALF-DOZEN TO TWO DOZEN STUDENTS SIT DOWN WITH ME. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR CONVERSATIONS WERE LIKE WHEN YOU WERE THAT AGE, BUT WHEN I WAS 18 YEARS OLD MINE WERE NOTHING LIKE THESE. THOSE CONVERSATIONS RENEW MY INSPIRATION AND SENSE OF COMMITMENT TO WHAT WE DO AS AN INSTITUTION."

TOPICS RANGED FROM WHAT THE COLLEGE IS DOING TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY IN SANTA FE TO HOW THE COLLEGE HAS CHANGED OVER THE YEARS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING MORE WOMEN AUTHORS ON THE READING LIST.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PHILANTHROPIA AND UPCOMING PHILANTHROPIA EVENTS CALL OR EMAIL MAGGIE GRIFFIN IN ANNAPOLIS AT 410-626-2534, M-GRIFFIN@SJCA.EDU OR GINGER ROHERTY IN SANTA FE AT 505-984-6099, GROHERTY@AOL.COM.

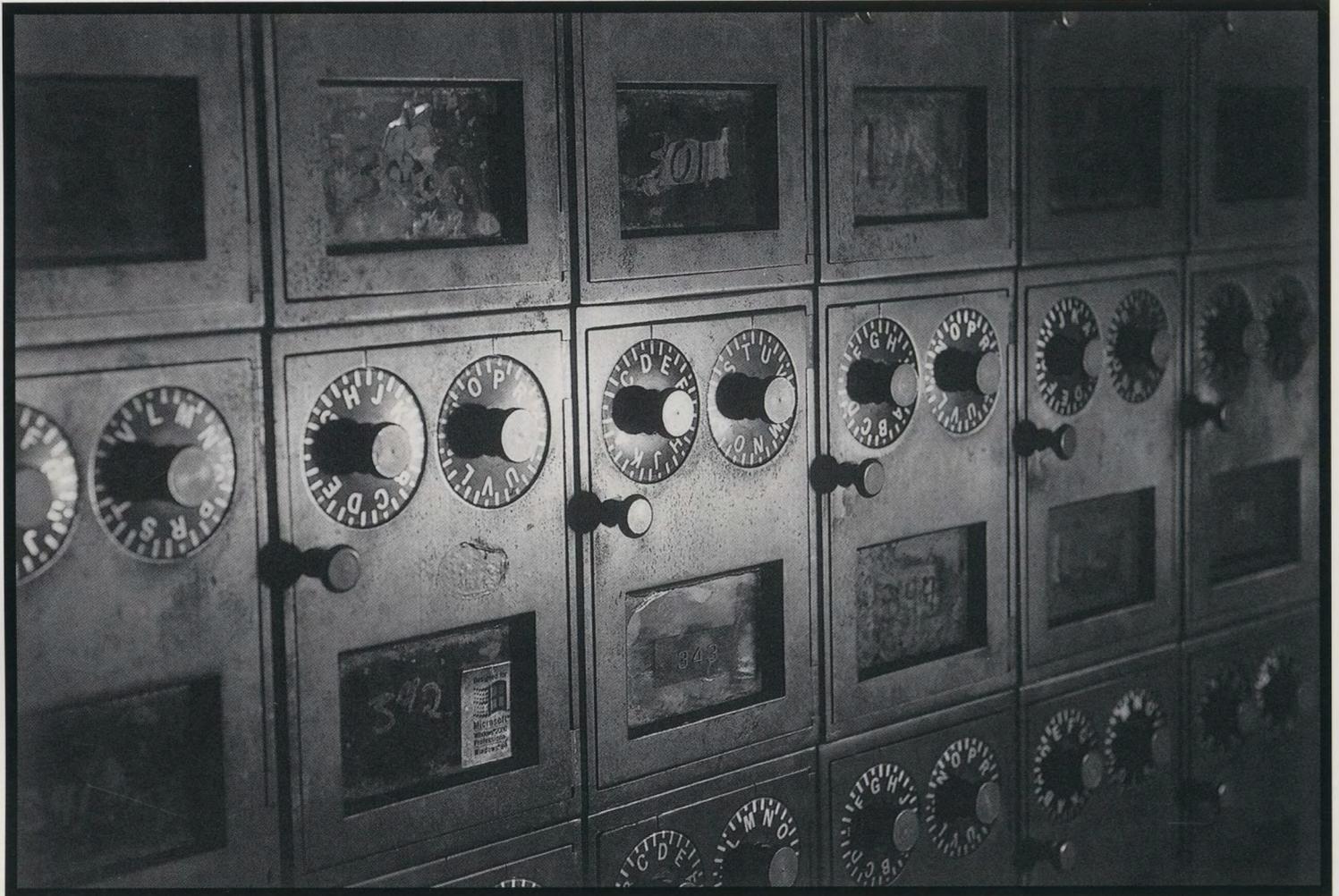
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