

Science changes win okay

In the first major curriculum change in more than a decade, St. John's is reducing the number of years of laboratory science from four to three.

The decision was reached by faculties on both the eastern and western campuses in an effort to reduce the number of classes in the sophomore year, the only year in which five rather than four are required. Next year sophomores will have only four classes: seminar, language and mathematics tutorials, and music.

The study of biology, which heretofore has come during the sophomore year, will be divided between freshman and senior years.

In advising students of the change, Dean Curtis Wilson wrote them:

"NOT WITHOUT a rather lengthy consideration of alternatives, and not without trepidation, we have been led to our very simple conclusion: that we should seek a way to do the important and necessary laboratory science in three rather than four years."

To help accommodate the change, the freshman laboratory studies in physical science will be reduced from 32 to 20 weeks. The freshman laboratory now will consist of one week of observational astronomy, 11 weeks of observational biology, and 20 weeks of elementary studies of matter and measurement.

Dean Wilson said the college will take a hard look at the

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Winkie Barr celebrates his eightieth

Stringfellow Barr, teacher and St. John's president for nine years, the man who has helped "us to be better than we otherwise would have been," last month celebrated his 80th birthday in the grand patriarchal manner amid praise and honor from the men whose lives he has helped shape.

There were speeches and gifts and a three-tiered birthday cake and a great deal of laughter, which was the way it should have been.

Some time ago Francis S. Mason, Jr., '43, on behalf of some close friends and associates, approached "Winkie" Barr to see what might be happening in January, 1977, on his 80th birthday.

"But that's a laughing matter," Mr. Barr protested.

"Do you mind if we come and laugh with you?" queried Mr. Mason, which is how the birthday party at Princeton University's Prospect House came to be.

"It is wonderful that we all have come to try adequately to honor a man beloved and respected by us all," Mr. Mason told the more than 125 luncheon guests, many of whom were at St. John's during the era in which Stringfellow Barr and Scott Buchanan established the New

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St. John's College woman named Rhodes scholar

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The St. John's

REPORTER

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Honors degree to be thing of past at SJC

St. John's College has decided to eliminate such "honors" degrees as cum laude and magna cum laude in awarding its bachelor's degrees.

The decision, jointly reached by both its Annapolis and Santa Fe, N.M., campuses, is linked to the role grades play at St. John's.

While grades are kept here for graduate study purposes, they are revealed only if a student makes a special request for them. Given this down-play, St. John's, unlike other colleges, where honors are determined automatically by grade point averages, has used other standards in deciding who will receive them, occasionally awarding honors to seniors who may have a grade point average slightly under that of other class members.

"At most colleges and universities, honors degrees are determined automatically," Dean Curtis Wilson of the Annapolis campus wrote students in informing them of the decision.

"... THE FACULTY at St. John's has always refused to accord to grades the officially sanctioned importance that such a procedure would imply. In the absence of a mechanically applicable criterion, the faculty has found it exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to arrive at judgments that all or most could regard as based on adequate knowledge and uniformly applied standards.

"Arbitrariness in the linear ranking of students and in the drawing of a line between the rite and cum laude and the magna cum laude graduate, has seemed impossible to avoid."

Mr. Wilson said that too often final judgments have been reached amid "widespread feelings of doubt or resignation."

"As for the recipients, too often they have viewed the results as unfair or incomprehensible," he continued. "These difficulties have loomed larger as the size of the senior classes has increased.

"IN BRIEF, while in no way wishing to stint our praises for intellectual achievement, we have not found that the granting of honors degrees could be carried out with a sufficiently strict and clear justice."

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Tuition fees to go higher

St. John's will ask \$4,000 in tuition fees next year.

Reacting to the effect of continuing inflation, the Board of Visitors and Governors has voted a 7½ per cent increase in tuition for its Annapolis campus. It also moved the tuition to \$4,000 for the Santa Fe campus, which has been charging \$3,625 as against Annapolis campus' present \$3,700. The increase for Santa Fe would be 10.3 per cent.

The room fee will move from \$575 to \$625 on both campuses. Board costs also will go up, but those figures will not be known until later in the year when the college negotiates a contract for its food service. College officials estimate they may go from \$25 to \$50 higher.

Actual cost of educating a St. John's student in Annapolis is estimated by Board Member Charles Nelson, '45, at about \$7,800 and at about \$8,900 for Santa Fe students.

City Symphony sets premiere

A major work by Douglas Allanbrook, St. John's tutor, his Symphony in Four Movements for Brass Quintet and Orchestra, will have its premiere performance Sunday, Feb. 20, when it is played by the Annapolis Brass Quintet and the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra.

The performance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Annapolis High School. A commissioned work, it was written under the sponsorship of the Maryland Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Annapolis Fine Arts Foundation.

Works by Mr. Allanbrook, which include orchestral, choral and keyboard music, have been performed both in this country and abroad. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

Graduate Institute adds year

The Annapolis campus is adding a fifth segment of the college's Graduate Institute in Santa Fe.

The eight-week program will be an extension of the institute, where college graduates may earn a master's degree after summer study there. Geoffrey Comber, the institute's associate director who will be in charge of the Annapolis program, said that it will get underway June 26 and will be devoted to history. Students will explore a number of major questions both through great books seminars and through a tutorial.

A MAXIMUM OF nine hours of credit will be offered. Public school teachers participating may gain credit toward recertification, including credit for what is known as their "MA plus 30," a formula involving 30 hours beyond a master's degree used in salary advancements.

Students who complete the summer here will be eligible to transfer to the Santa Fe campus, where summer sessions are devoted to philosophy and theology, math and science, politics and society, and literature. Graduate Institute alumni, many of whom have requested another segment of work beyond what they received in Santa Fe, will be eligible to

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Nancy Lee Coiner, the 23-year-old Tulsa, Okla., senior who is one of the first women in the United States to win the prestigious Rhodes scholarship, believes that "it was the St. John's conversationalist approach that got me there."

Selected in final competition at New Orleans, she is one of 13 women who are among the 32 scholarship winners from the United States to receive two to three years of study at Oxford University. The coveted scholarship is being opened for the first time in its 73-year history to women as well as to men.

Winning the honor came as a surprise for her because, as fortune would have it, flu coincided with her final interview. Between Friday, when she met the district committee at a New Orleans cocktail party, and Saturday morning, when she was interviewed, she became ill and spent most of the night awake, finally sending the hotel desk clerk out at 4 in the morning for medicine. Her interview was to come four hours later. The 12 contestants had drawn numbers for the order of their interview, and she was scheduled for first at 8 o'clock.

"I FELT THAT I had 'bombed,' and that unless I had some sleep and a second interview, there wouldn't be a chance," she recalled her impressions of the 30-to-40 minute interview. "I felt that I hadn't said anything straight and wasn't quite in gear."

But no second interview was necessary, and at 5:30 p.m. when Hugh Patterson, editor of The Little Rock Gazette, who coincidentally had run Miss Coiner's birth announcement, read the list of winners, Miss Coiner, still too ill to really hear, knew she had won when someone turned to offer congratulations.

Miss Coiner found the interviews, both at Oklahoma City at the state level and in New Orleans at the district level, "not at all difficult."

"They were much more (Continued on P. 2)



NANCY COINER

Briefs

Four appear in journals

Four faculty members are appearing in current academic journals.

Harvey Flaumenhaft has an article in the Bicentennial issue of *The Political Science Reviewer*, an annual journal, entitled "Alexander Hamilton on the Foundation of Good Government." On sabbatical next year, Mr. Flaumenhaft will spend his year completing a book length doctoral thesis. It will be called *The Administrative Republic: A Study of Alexander Hamilton's Political Thought*. Mr. Flaumenhaft is earning his doctor's degree in political science at the University of Chicago.

Laurence Berns has written on "Political Philosophy and the Right to Rebellion" in *Interpretations*, a journal of political philosophy published by the Queen's College Philosophy Department.

Robert Williamson has an

article, "Logical Economy in Einstein's 'On the Electrodynamics of Moving Bodies,'" which is scheduled to appear in the Spring issue of *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*.

Leo Raditsa has written on the current political scene in Italy, where he spends his summers, in "Letter from Rome," published in the December issue of *Midstream*. In the monthly *Quadrant*, he has another article, "The Fall of the Roman Empire in the West—and the Present Crisis."

In addition, among the St. John's graduates who are publishing is Albert Mark Smith, '67, a doctoral candidate at the University of Wisconsin, who has written on "Galileo's Theory of Indivisibles: Revolution or Compromise" in *The Journal of the History of Ideas*.

Bernard Peebles slain

Bernard Mann Peebles, who taught at St. John's during the '40's is dead, slain in an attempted robbery outside his apartment in Northeast Washington shortly before midnight November 23. Police said he was shot in the chest as he returned from visiting colleagues nearby. He managed to climb the 30 stairs to get to his apartment and telephone police and was taken to Washington General Hospital where he died at 2:35.

A retired Catholic University professor of Greek and Latin, Professor Peebles had taught at St. John's from 1941-42, leaving here for wartime duties, and then returned in 1945. He left again in 1948 for Catholic University, with which he has been associated

since and where he specialized in Roman and medieval Latin literature and in patristics, the study of the writings and doctrines of early Christian leaders.

Since his retirement in 1971, he had continued to lecture at the university and to write independently on his specialty. In 1974 he participated in the World Petrarch Congress at the Folger Shakespeare Library, where leading scholars and writers paid tribute to the great Italian Renaissance poet on the sixth centennial of Petrarch's death. He was a frequent contributor to various periodicals.

At the time of his death he was serving as an editorial director of "The Fathers of the Church: New Translation," an 80-to-90 volume set of the early writings.

Housman play

Amid all the absurdities of the A.E. Housman play at Christmas, there was a note of sadness.

Winfree Smith recalled that it was Bernie Peebles who introduced this "Fragment of a Greek Tragedy" when it first was produced in 1941. Mr. Peebles and his wife, Carrie, took the roles now played by Hugh McGrath and Charlotte Fletcher.

The play is not performed every year, but since 1941 it has been a Christmas tradition to stage it every other year or so at the college party before the winter break. This year the play was given in the Great Hall with a blackboard depicting a "fragment of a palace" and serving both for dramatic purposes and as a dressing room. Behind it Hugh McGrath successfully donned his mop beard, and Charlotte Fletcher, wearing panty hose on her head stuffed

and done up like horns, emitted her great shriek. ("That's the part you can't rehearse," Miss Fletcher said).

"O, I am smitten with a hatchet's jaw, and that in deed and not in word alone," Miss Fletcher is heard to wail while Mr. McGrath, as the Chorus, informs the audience, "I thought I heard a sound within the house unlike the voice of one that jumps for joy." The play continues:

Eriphyla: He splits my skull, not in a friendly way. Once more he purposes to kill me dead.

Chorus: I would not be reputed rash, but yet I doubt if all be gay within the house.

Eriphyla: O! O! another stroke! That makes the third. He stabs me to the heart against my wish.

Chorus: If that be so, thy state of health is poor; but thine arithmetic is quite correct.

"Benedic, Domine, nos et haec tua dona, quae de bonitate tua sumus sumpturi, per Jesum Christum Dominum nostrum. Amen." It is the traditional grace, "Bless us, Oh Lord, and these Thy gifts, which of Thy goodness we are about to partake, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord."

Nancy Coiner one of 32 chosen for Oxford study

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relaxed than I thought they could be," she said. "I expected the committees to be very critical, but they were easy to talk to and asked very intelligent questions. The committees were really, truly generous. Both committees clearly had read my essay on Dante very carefully. In New Orleans they all knew a lot about Dorothy Sayers and her translation of Dante. It was great fun. It was much easier than an oral exam at St. John's."

A grapevine of comments from the committees back to the campus indicated that Miss Coiner was not the only person to enjoy her interviews. The committee did so, too. In fact, one member commented that such groups frequently get speeches from Rhodes contestants. What they had with Miss Coiner might be summed up as an elevated conversation.

MISS COINER becomes St. John's first Rhodes recipient since 1945 when Stephen W. Terry, Jr., now state chairman of the Rhodes selection committee in Indiana, was a winner. While competition was stiff enough to make her nervous, she believes a St. John's interviewee has an advantage.

"I find it difficult to understand why a St. John's student would not make it through if he got to the interview stage," she remarked. "This is partly because at other colleges people generally don't talk in class, and when they do talk outside class, they tend to discuss things which aren't really important."

"At St. John's," she pointed out with a laugh, "you gain a certain facility by the habit of having people tell you what you do wrong all the time."

One reason St. John's has a winner this year is because, possibly for the first time, the faculty Fellowship Committee headed by Sam Kutler is doing what Ivy League universities make a regular business each year. It looked around for potential winners and suggested they apply. It was Saul Benjamin, a member of the committee who himself had been at Oxford, who persuaded Miss Coiner that she was scholarship material.

In addition, the college entered three other women, Julia Perkins and Carla Schick, also seniors, and a 1976 graduate, Marian Wolfe. No men were entered although James Mackey was approached and declined because he wanted to get married, something which automatically eliminated him.

QUESTIONS BY the Rhodes selection committees, Miss Coiner believes, suggest they are looking for a certain type of leadership. They were interested in such general, modern political questions as what would be the thing she would tell President-Elect Carter if she had an opportunity. They queried her about Dante, and they were intrigued by St. John's.

Miss Coiner will leave for Oxford in September. Present plans call for all the United States

recipients to meet in New York and to go over together aboard the Queen Elizabeth II. At Oxford she will study early church theology and theological literature.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Henry Coiner, of Tulsa, Miss Coiner was graduated from Nathan Hale Senior High School in Tulsa before coming to St. John's. Besides going to St. John's, she has done a number of things. Among them she has:

Acted extensively; as the only Christian living in a kibbutz during the 1973 Israeli war, managed a banana field; lived on an organic farm in Scotland with a woman theologian and her Cambridge-educated husband where Miss Coiner built a cow byre; worked the midnight shift as a press operator in 110 degree temperature in a Tulsa roller skate factory, turning soft plastic into wheels, and worked as a junior clerk with the Tulsa telephone company, serving as a middleman between engineers and construction crews.

Last summer she acted in and served as stage manager for the Annapolis Classic Repertory Company. This spring she will appear in a campus production of "The Tempest."

MISS COINER, who once seriously considered the priesthood (she teaches 8th, 9th, and 10th graders Sunday School at St. Anne's Church), went to

Israel at the end of her sophomore year at St. John's because she wanted to experience, besides St. John's in its secular way, another community of close relationships.

In addition, she wanted an opportunity to learn Hebrew. She already could read Latin, Greek, Italian, and French.

"The war broke out at 2 p.m. and by midnight, within a space of eight hours, all the men were gone," she recalled.

Israeli high school students, who regularly work the fields, taught her how to irrigate, how to fertilize, how to recognize how old the plants were, and how to spray the trunks with color to indicate when they should be picked.

"Managing the field was wonderful," she recalled. "I had a really good time and was very, very lucky to be assigned to the fields. We started early in the morning, by 5:30. I would climb up the ladder and look at the green field and think, 'It's seminar time there.'"

The field was three miles from the western border and 40 miles from the action.

"We got bombed regularly by the Palestinian Liberation Front, but our kibbutz was up a hill, and the Arabs were such bad shots they never got inside the gates. The kibbutz down the road got it constantly."

Lack of 'clear justice' is factor in decision

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reaching the figures.

Mr. Wilson said he did not believe the decision will have an adverse effect on graduates seeking admission to graduate or professional schools.

"Whatever function... that the honors degrees may have had, we believe it can be better fulfilled by individual letters of recommendation, which can be more specific and less subject to misinterpretation than the Latin adverbial phrases," he said.

College's TV series reaired

St. John's televised seminars, "Dialogue of the Western World," first aired in 1972, has been televised by the Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting seven times since its initial showing. Prepared and moderated by former Dean Robert A. Goldwin, the series included among its participants two figures currently prominent in the news, Patricia Roberts Harris, President Carter's housing and urban development secretary, and Maryland's newly elected senator, Paul Sarbanes.

Is name a misnomer?

William W. Simmons, president of the Alumni Association and a member of the college board, suggests that "New Program" may be a misnomer for the St. John's curriculum.

He noted that the program, now in its 40th year, has lasted longer than other, less recent St. John's curriculum programs which he has known.

The college operated as a military school for 37 years between 1886 and 1923, and then established a new elective system in 1923. It continued until the New Program was established 14 years later in 1937.

That gives the program a three-year edge over the next oldest curriculum. The New Program might be more correctly described as the Old Program, and the latter perhaps designated as the Old Old Program.

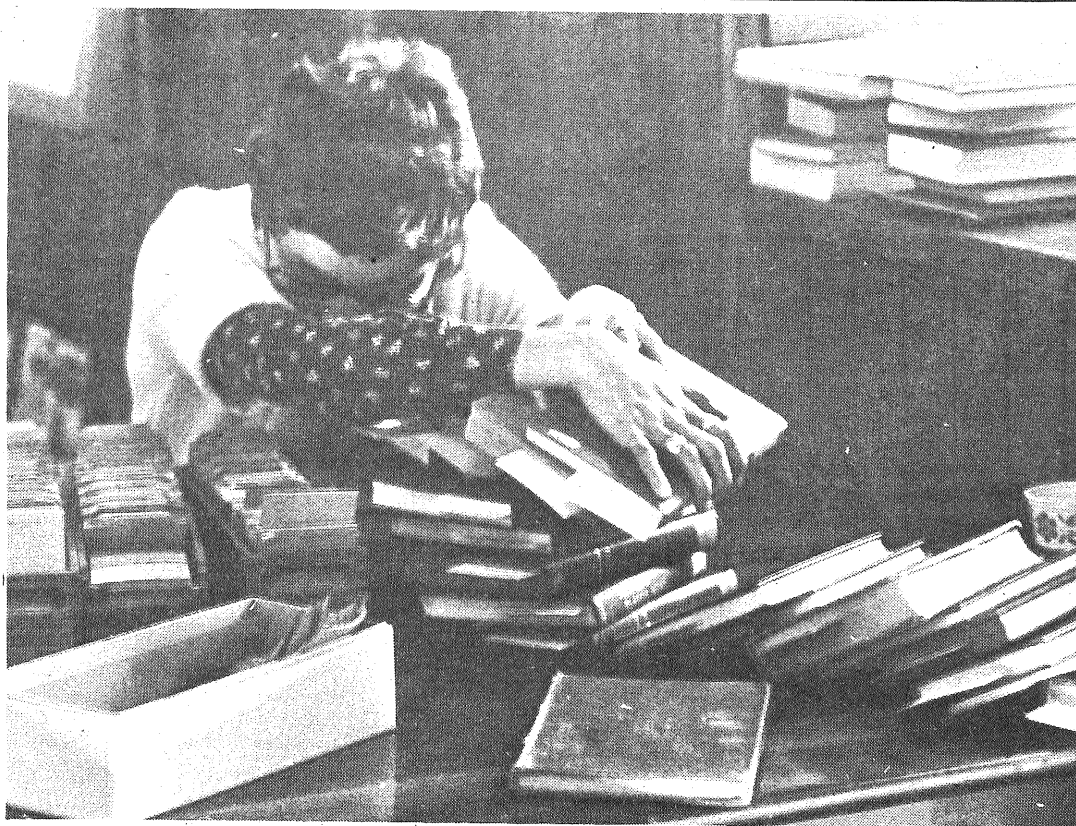
Library reports circulation up

Despite the demands of St. John's reading program, its students are borrowing more books than ever before.

Charlotte Fletcher, librarian, said the average student borrowed 30 books during the past academic year as compared to 25 in 1971-72 and 22 in 1960-61. Class copies were excluded in

St. John's Grace

On special college occasions Stringfellow Barr used to request grace said in Latin. Rediscovered by College Archivist Miriam Strange, the grace was recited at Mr. Barr's birthday luncheon by Paula Jacobus, Kane, Pa., junior. For persons who would like to introduce a little Latin at their dinner table, the grace is:



Oh No! What happened to one stack of books. Marcia Talley is the librarian.

(Evening Capital photos)

Program gives blood to SJ family members

For the first time grandparents associated with the St. John's community can be supplied with blood under a new provision of the American National Red Cross Blood Assurance Program, Marilyn Kyle, college nurse, reports.

Last fall St. John's went over its quota of 96 pints, contributing 112 pints in all to the annual campus drive.

"Our contract with the Baltimore Regional Office of the Red Cross specifies that if 20 per cent of the members of the college community, including students, tutors and staff, annually donate blood, then all members and their immediate families are covered for all their blood needs except for cardiovascular surgery," Ms. Kyle said.

For the single student or college member blood can be provided his parents, grandparents and brothers and sisters who are still dependent upon the parents. For married members of the community, all blood needs will be met as well as those of the spouse, and unmarried children plus those of each spouse's parents and grandparents.

Ms. Kyle advises these people that if blood is needed they inform their hospital that they are covered under the Red Cross Blood Assurance Program of the Baltimore, Maryland Regional Office with St. John's College. Persons participating should give the name of the college member with whom they are associated; that is, the student, staff member, or tutor.

She requested that if blood is used, persons should inform the College Health Service Office, and replacement of the blood will be arranged. Information needed includes the name and address of hospital, name and address of person receiving the blood, date of surgery or transfusion and number of pints used.

5th segment to be based on history

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participate.

Planned primarily as a residential program, the Annapolis session will be limited to 40 participants. Besides the tutorial, which will meet four times a week for an hour and a quarter with shorter reading assignments than those of the twice-weekly seminar, two preceptorials will be included in the program. These will be intensive examinations of one or two single works of history.

The tutorial will include writings of Giam battista Vico, Johann Gottfried von Herder, Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, and Max Weber along with Kant, Hegel and Augustine.

"**HERDER, LESSING** and Kant were 18th century writers concerned with the question of what is history," Mr. Comber said. "Is history going anywhere? Is there an over-all plan which we can read? Are there any over-arching patterns? What is it in history that we can use for ourselves? How is history significantly different or similar to literature, drama, biography, or other forms of writing?"

Seminar writers will include Herodotus, Thucydides, Plutarch, Tacitus, Gibbon and Shakespeare. A more contemporary historian to be read will be Henri Pirenne, whose book, "Medieval Cities," has become a classic of its sort.

Serving as Mr. Comber's administrative assistant will be a former St. John's student, Rita Bahus. Interested persons may write or call Mr. Comber or Miss Bahus at the college.

Books pour in by hundreds at library's Call-in Day

It might be an exaggeration to say that twice a year the St. John's College library becomes a madhouse. But it's almost that.

Librarians stay up until 1 a.m. Books swarm over a newly set up receiving table. A student work crew forms an assembly line, flipping through pink cards, tucking white cards into book pockets, tying up individual stacks of books, and carting others away by the hundred.

By nightfall 2,000 books have come in. After being the busiest, most visited spot on campus, the library does a turn-around. For one day the library is deserted except for librarians and student helpers methodically shelving the books. By 7 p.m. it's all done. The library is once more back in business.

THE TWO-DAY book whirl constitutes what St. John's describes as a "call-in" day, a system of accounting, borrowed from Cambridge University in England, which may be unique among American colleges.

Charlotte Fletcher, St. John's librarian, explained they were begun six years ago "because of our generosity." The generosity lies in the fact that the college charges no over-due fines and only rarely for other breaches of faith but needs to have some way of accounting for all its volumes.

Hearing about the Cambridge system, the library decided to institute its own "call-in" days twice a year, just prior to the Thanksgiving and spring vacation when books are most likely to be taken home and forgotten or lost there.

"Returning books is one of those things people put off," Miss Fletcher explained. "I used to plead with people, put up announcements in dormitories, and walk through the dining room, asking people to return them."

No longer. Everyone, from the president and dean on down through the academic ranks of faculty, staff and students, trots

over to the library on these days.

"**THE WHOLE** community participates," Miss Fletcher noted. "People encourage each other to return books. Our generosity depends upon such cooperation. In any lending institution the responsibility falls on those who borrow to make it fair and equitable. And our students are wonderful. They do it with such good spirit."

Excused are class copies, which may be kept out all year, or specially required books which

may be needed those particular two days. As a further encouragement to return books, students who want to take them out again can request that these be set aside for them. Instead of going back on the shelves, these are tied up in bundles to be picked up as soon as the library reopens.

"It's just awful," Kathryn Kinzer, assistant librarian, observed, "but the hassle lasts only one day. It works much better than the old system of beg and please."

Tutors deliver talks

William O'Grady, St. John's tutor, was a major speaker in a series of talks funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and coordinated by the Cumberland County (N.C.) Public Library last month. His talks included those at Elon and Belmont Abbey colleges as well as one in Fayetteville. Making the point that some things said by men who believe in God are important whether one believes in God or not, Mr. O'Grady based his lecture on reflections of passages from The Iliad, Augustine's Confessions, Dante's Purgatory, Don Quixote, and The Gospel of John.

In another talk at Anne Arundel Community College, Robert L. Spaeth of the faculty spoke on "Annapolis, Seat of Governments" in a panel discussion on government in Anne Arundel County sponsored by the Anne Arundel County Bicentennial Committee. A former city alderman, Mr. Spaeth currently is a member of the Annapolis Planning and Zoning Commission.

Delivering a Lincoln's Birthday address earlier this month in Washington was a third member of the faculty, Laurence Berns. His talk, entitled "Enlightenment, Religion, and

the American Character," was given before the Washington Philosophical Club at Howard University.

Robert Hutchins sends his hugs

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birthday card to "Mr. Barr who helped make St. John's a reality we can experience . . . under the great umbrella of learning." It had been designed by Terry Schuld, Glen Head, N.Y., junior, and by Julia van der Veur, Napa, Calif., junior. And Paula Jacobus, Kane, Pa., junior, delivered a traditional grace in Latin, one which Mr. Barr frequently had repeated during his St. John's days.

ONE PERSON unable to be present was Robert Hutchins, former president of the University of Chicago, who sent a telegram saying: "Please give him hugs from me."

Among the guests were three members of the Class of 1941, the first in the history of the New Program: Paul R. Comegys, who helped plan the luncheon, Victor G. Bloede, III, and William Grant.

Mr. Barr enjoyed it all. He made no speeches, but he did have a one-liner to deliver. "In 80 more years," he told guests, "I want to see you again."

DATE DUE

Alumni and friends honor program's founding head

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Program here.

"ANY MAN WHOSE favorite color is yellow, who is so fine a gardener that he ought to be called a grower instead, who loves children and dogs, likes to cook as well as eat, and rejoices in the companionship of all the generations is bound to be beloved," Mr. Mason continued.

"We here who have read his books and read other books with him have a special kind of respect that amounts to love — the love that results from discovery after exasperation, but with Winkie, exhilarating exploration, too."

Praise also came from J. Winfree Smith, who first knew Mr. Barr as a 17-year-old student at the University of Virginia and who joined the faculty here at Mr. Barr's invitation.

"Winkie Barr is one whose soul could never be satisfied with small things," The St. John's tutor told the gathering.

"My first encounter with him was at the University of Virginia in 1931 when I enrolled in a course of his on the history of the world. He had announced it, though not in the university catalog, as 'the history of the world from the amoeba to Hoover.' It was a lecture course. Winkie's classroom lectures were a delight because of his sharp wit and extraordinary felicitous use of the English language. They were also very instructive, for Winkie, as a history professor, was always concerned that we try not to accumulate fact but to understand what was going on in ancient Egypt or Greece or Rome or medieval Europe or France in the time of the French Revolution.

"WHEN WINKIE came with Scott Buchanan to St. John's College in 1937, it was, as it still is, a very small college by any numerical measure. But what they had in mind for St. John's was anything but small. Winkie has always been very modest



Francis Mason presents Stringfellow Barr with a collection of letters on his 80th birthday. Douglas Buchanan, '43, son of Scott Buchanan, co-founder with Mr. Barr of the New Program, is at right.

about his part in the institution of the St. John's program, and it is no accident that we still speak of Winkie and Scott as the founders of the program. I think that the fact that we have continued through these decades what they started is a tribute to them and an indication of the strength of what they have stood for in education. I am not going to tell this audience about the St. John's program and how great it is except to say a couple of things.

"Winkie once said of the great books, 'They are in dialogue with every generation that wants to talk with them since they talk much better than most books do.' The eminent worth of the books has something to do with how great the St. John's program was.

"But another factor in the greatness of the program is that it almost forces its own reexamination. That reexamination which goes on constantly though maybe inadequately was intended by Winkie and Scott. That is not to say that they began the St. John's program as an experiment in the

sense of something to be tried and discarded if it didn't work. In 1937 and in the years that followed, they presented it as something that had been tried in the past and found to work and that had largely been forgotten or neglected.

"Winkie, after he left St. John's, devoted much of his time and energy about political and economic questions in a large way. In what he wrote when president of the Foundation for World Government he urged us Americans, without giving up our patriotism, to think of ourselves as citizens of the world and of the world as one human community whose political and economic problems could be solved, if at all, only by all people acting together. Even if the events of the last 25 years have made it harder to think of a world community or of world government as a practical possibility, the idea is one we should never forget.

"WINKIE'S LIFE and devotion to truth and justice and to the community of human beings help us to be better than we otherwise would have been."

The gift presentation was made by Allan P. Hoffman, '49, who had taken a leading part in planning the celebration and whose freshman seminar was spent with Mr. Barr. It was a three-volume edition of a rare book by J. Hector St. John Crevecoeur, first published in France in 1801 and describing Pennsylvania and New York. The volumes formerly had been in the library of the Czar of Russia.

Also presented Mr. Barr was a collection of congratulatory letters from well wishers.

Peter Weiss, '46, recalled his association with Mr. Barr both as an undergraduate and with the Foundation of World Government. ("In 1949 it meant coming out of a cave and moving into 58 Park Avenue"). He praised Mr. Barr's attempts to make virtue real.

Two St. John's students took part in the program. Peter Grubb, Los Gatos, Calif., freshman, presented an over-sized

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Number of sophomore classes to be cut

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present junior-senior laboratory programs with a view to a somewhat shorter sequence, somewhat different in style and content. Two tutors, one from each campus, will be given time off during the next academic year in order to work out the sequence in detail.

The proposed plan calls for juniors to continue to study physics, and the senior year to be revised to contain 10 weeks dealing with the beginnings of quantum physics and 18 weeks with Mendelian and molecular genetics.

To get the program underway, the present freshman class will have nine weeks of biology in the spring following spring recess. The remainder of biological studies, which have been taught in the sophomore year, will come during their senior year.

SOPHOMORE CLASSES originally were increased from four to five during the 50's in order to include music. Besides agreeing to retain music, the faculty, in discussing possibilities, decided not to reduce the amount of time assigned to language tutorials.

Dean Wilson pointed out that the second semesters of sophomore and senior language tutorials are devoted largely to the reading of English poetry.

"Any step that would diminish the amount of attention to good English writing, or practice in writing, we would regard as mistaken. For this reason we are proposing that, as the sophomore classes are reduced from five to

Seminar method gets new use

St. John's seminar method was adapted to a new purpose at a small weekend conference sponsored by Travel Program for Foreign Diplomats, Inc., recently at the Maryland Inn.

St. John's Tutor Robert L. Spaeth served as a coordinator in planning a training session for eight men who will lead seminars for diplomats. Former Dean Robert A. Goldwin, now with the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy, and Dean Robert Neidorf of the Annapolis campus took part. Among the participants were representatives of the Common Market, the United Nations, embassies, Morgan Guarantee Trust, and the Pillsbury firm.

four, the sophomore language tutorial should return to a schedule of meeting four hours a week rather than three."

By adding one more weekly class meeting, the sophomore language tutorial will return to the frequency of meetings it has had in the past.

In advocating a reduction in the number of sophomore classes from five to four, Mr. Wilson said there was no doubt that students can manage to prepare for them, but that "we would prefer not to foster by our institutional arrangements the kind of distractedness that comes from trying to do too many things at once."

"To be sure," he said, "the program will always, and always must, include more than is easily encompassable by any one person, whether tutor or student; to settle for comfortable compartmentalizations and self-limitations would be to reject the goal that we have set for ourselves."

LAST FALL, in informing members of the Board of Visitors and Governors of possible curriculum changes under consideration, the Instruction Committee of both campuses stated:

"In senior laboratory, the biology section would surely include the kind of genetics study now in sophomore laboratory on both campuses, while the materials and approaches adopted in the final weeks might differ east and west. We believe it would be essential to find room in senior seminar for three or four Darwin seminars appropriately timed. One may anticipate difficulty in arranging a teaching slate if, as outlined, senior laboratory incorporates both quantum physics and 20th century biology; accommodations may be possible through exchange of classes with tutors teaching freshman laboratory or senior mathematics."

Most students non-smokers

Non-smokers remain in predominance among St. John's freshmen. Last fall when Admissions Director Joanne Aitken asked new students whether they would prefer to room with smokers or non-smokers, 76 requested the latter. Sixteen students said it made no difference on way or another, and 14 of the 106 students to whom Miss Aitken wrote either were living off campus or did not respond.

'Live Forever, Winkie!'

One of the letters sent to Stringfellow Barr on his 80th birthday came from John Van Doren, '47. Read by Francis S. Mason, Jr., who presided at his birthday luncheon, the letter follows:

"What shall we say to you on this anniversary? Greetings, certainly, and high honor, and great praise — gifts proper to the occasion and such as you deserve at any time. But also, and not least, gratitude for having long ago made us understand the importance of occasions generally. You were the master of such things; you taught us to respect them. There was in all you did an element of form, some note of

ceremony, a concern to have the right words said at the right time. It was as if you wanted us to realize that our enterprise required a sense of dignity, that we could not be well thought of except as we thought well of ourselves. You never made too much of it. Our observances were lightly enough laid down, and carelessly maintained. But by them did we become, at least in part, the community we were. Therefore we stand for you once more today, in thanks for this, and in love of your example. Live forever, Winkie: amice, magister, praefecte et pater collegii."