



crossroads

# CROSSROADS

Belmont Abbey College

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## Abbey Goes Coeducational



Fr. John Bradley, President of BAC and Sr. Mary Stephen,

President of SHC face questions at the THE Press Conference.

Rev. John P. Bradley, President of Belmont Abbey College, announced on February 25, 1972, that Belmont Abbey will become a coeducational institution and will begin by accepting women day students for the 1972 Fall semester.

The decision, which broke a ninety-six-year tradition, is a result of long study and discussion between the Abbey and Sacred Heart College, its neighboring institution. Even though the decision to go co-ed has been made, the Boards of

Trustees of both institutions will continue to work together to enhance the cooperative programs already in effect.

"Our decision in no way closes the doors on our present or future cooperative efforts," Father Bradley stated.

Students of both Colleges will be able to continue participating in the academic, social and other activities of either College, thereby perpetuating the free flow of students between the campuses.

## Unrest On Campus

### Students Protest Disiplinary

### Action In Drug Case

The past week has witnessed several disturbances on campus, including acts of vandalism and arson, arising from student dissatisfaction with the Disciplinary Committee.

Implementation of the College's policy on drugs has, in recent months, caused disciplinary action against several students. On Monday, March 13, *Free Lance*, the student newspaper, carried an editorial attacking the proceedings in one such case. Several violations of due process were alleged. Additionally, *Free*

*Lance* questioned the integrity of the Dean of Students and held that the defendant in the case, who had been expelled, should be reinstated. The *Free Lance* editorial asserted that its information came from the defendant and five other students, and that *Free Lance* had not consulted the Dean or any other College official in its investigation -- a somewhat unfortunate omission of a kind not unusual in inexperienced student journalism.

The College's attorneys assure that the procedures observed in

the case are unimpeachable, are the fairest to students of any of which they are aware, and provide safeguards of student rights considerably in excess of what is required by law. These procedures were established as the result of extensive investigation.

On the evening of the day in which the *Free Lance* editorial appeared, approximately 150 students gathered on campus in protest. The Dean of Students was present and spoke to them on the issue. During the night there were disturbances on campus, including several brushfires and the virtual destruction by fire of the old greenhouse west of the Belmont-Mount Holly Road.

On the next day (Tuesday, March 14), the President, Dean Clark, and Jim Giermanski met for some five and a half hours with 21 students who purported to represent the student body. This committee was led by the President of the Student Government and made up of members selected by him.

The verdict of the Disciplinary Committee had been appealed to the College President, and this student group asked that he render an immediate decision on the appeal. Fr. Bradley answered that the case would be treated like any other, and that a judgment would be made within a reasonable time.

On Wednesday at 4:00 P.M. a decision was announced upholding the original verdict in the case. The "Committee of 21" then met again with Fr. Bradley. That night the Student Government President held a meeting in the Wheeler Center to report to the student body the progress of discussions between the committee and the Administration. Wednesday night there were more brush fires and a number of windows were broken -- one in the Wheeler Center, several in student residence buildings.

Many students objected to the disorders. Over a hundred organized fire-fighting crews and generally cooperated in defensive measures. Many expressed displeasure at the actions of the protestors.

Thursday at 10:00 A.M. a bomb threat was received and the Administration Building was evacuated for about two hours. No explosive was found, and by 1:00 P.M. things had returned to normal. The incident is under investigation by appropriate

local, state, and federal agencies. On Thursday afternoon Fr. Bradley again met with the Committee of 21. That evening he appeared on Charlotte television to explain these incidents and to indicate the College's position. Thursday night there were several more brush fires on campus.

Several explanations are offered: beneath the ostensible reasons for these events (partly, no doubt, they are simply the form taken this year by the annual rites of spring), there appears to be some student disagreement with the regulations of the College, particularly those concerning drugs, dormitory visitation, and the College's right to enter rooms. Students are not subject to indiscriminate snooping, but the College retains the right to enter a room when there is distinct probable cause, as there

( Please turn to Page 6 )

## Alumni

### Records

### Computerized

For the past five months serious discussion and planning have been underway to develop a fully computerized alumni record system. In November the program was written, and on January 14th, funds were encumbered to implement the project.

On January 18, 1972, two specialists from the National Laboratory For Higher Education reviewed our entire program and gave it their overwhelming support. As a result of their visit, a test entry was run with complete success; and in February, preparation of documentation and other printing matter was initiated.

Therefore, you should soon receive a very succinct questionnaire in the form of a 4 x 6 card. In design, this card conforms to the requirements of the computer key punch card, and it is the one most important document of the project. Please, please, please, help us by filling out and returning this card as soon as possible. Without your help all the planning, and "blood, sweat, and tears" put into this most needed operation will be uselessly wasted.