

# CROSSROADS

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Crossroads is intended to serve as a forum for the several constituencies of Belmont Abbey College. It will also attempt to provide significant information about the many issues which affect higher education generally, and this college in particular. The editors welcome diversity of opinion; editorial standards aimed at will be those of Christian ethics, good taste, and Journalistic quality.

The Editorial Board of Crossroads includes students, faculty, and administration. Additionally, several editors at large have volunteered to cover such areas as student affairs, humanities, and science and religion.

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## Abbot From Page 1

our educational tone and the quality of life on campus. We wish only the best for our students, not just during the transitory four-year period of their stay here, but for their entire life span and for eternity.

If our campus environment is different from others, we do not see one an injustice, as we have a duty and a right, both legally and morally, to establish such an environment consistent with our belief. All are free to select an educational environment consistent with their own consciences. We desire those persons of quality who earnestly seek what we have to offer. We allow a wide range of freedom; we expect consonant responsibility; we reject permissiveness, bad manners, and anything incompatible with the teachings of Christianity and Catholicism.

There are some today who believe the educational environment should be stripped of any mark, standard, or commitment stemming from Christianity or Catholicism. We must strongly reject such notions for our institution. We also hold that the mere presence of some individuals committed to our philosophy and religious heritage will not suffice to insure the high quality of this environment. Presence and structure are necessary.

Belmont Abbey College, besides being Christian and Catholic, is also Benedictine. Its Benedictinism gives it a distinctive character. A central

## LETTERS



Dear Sir

I thought sure someone like Fr. Cuthbert would come forth and identify those abbeymen of '41. Parry Downs you did take that picture - but how I got

possession I'll never know. Frank Jenkins and Bill Fulton's (not Frank MacKenzie) names were not mentioned. Now for the abbey officers of early '42 - L-R - Tom Kane, Lewis McGhee, Charlton Howard, Bob Powers, Larry Jones, John Eck, Tom McSorley, Hugh Noell, Parry Downs and Jack Noell (deceased). Abbey went military the early part of '42. Jack Kraemer whose head appears in the '41 pictures was the first to join-up the U.S.M.C.

Jack Sherry



L. R., Tom Kane, Lewis McGhee, Charlton Howard, Bob Powers, Larry Jones, John Eck, Tom McSorley, Hugh Noell, Parry Down, Jack Noell

concept of Benedictinism is family life. Our schools are small, and because of this we can all benefit from a familial environment. If one does not care for this type of atmosphere, then one is free to select another type of institution. In such an environment as ours, students have a right to expect more from their teachers than classroom-hour contact alone, and students have an obligation to make effective use of the presence of a dedicated faculty. At Belmont Abbey we believe the principles of Benedictine family life can help reverse the negative trends in modern life that are so destructive to society and the common good.

In society today we are, unfortunately, witnessing in some sectors a deterioration of family life and of moral, ethical and religious values. The college and university campus has not been exempt from such influences. There have been instances of a rejection of the ordinary social amenities, lack of respect for personal and property rights, various forms of permissiveness, use of obscenities in speech, writing, and action, possession and use of dangerous and illegal drugs, displays of pictures and the like which offend good taste, ethical values and Christian morals, etc. Our own campus has not been exempt from such activities. However, we wish clearly and emphatically to indicate before any student matriculates at Belmont Abbey College that such activity is inconsistent with our educational milieu and will not be tolerated. As a private in-

stitution we have a right to establish an educational environment consistent with our philosophy. If one feels this environment is too restrictive of personal freedom, then one is free to go elsewhere. Firm but just sanctions can be expected for violations of college rules. Fundamental fairness is to be employed by the College in all instances. The common good is always to be protected, and major violations of rules are to be dealt with by suspension and expulsion. There is no place for favoritism, and all are to be treated justly and fairly.

Finally, one question has been prominent in the minds of many for several years, namely, the question of "open dorms" or visitation privileges. The Board of Trustees in 1970 and 1971 rejected requests for visitation privileges. In January of 1971 the Board reached this decision after extensive consultation and discussion. Parents were polled, ideas of Student Government leaders were presented before the Board, and other colleges were consulted, as well as our own administration. The Board, after careful consideration, unanimously rejected the request.

This past summer the Board again considered this question after receiving more data. Various views were frankly and honestly presented and discussed. After due discussion, the Board again rejected the concept of visitation privileges. We find that a change in present policy is unwarranted and not conducive to the type of educational environment we desire to establish.

Some may feel that this decision hinders social growth. We hardly think so, given the nature of our mobile society. However, if one feels this policy is not conducive to a healthy environment, he is free to seek another environment elsewhere that is more compatible with his principles. Therefore, we would like to make it unmistakably clear that the so-called question of "open dorms" or visitation privileges is now a closed question at Belmont Abbey College. Also, we consider a violation of this rule a major and serious violation of College policy, and it is to be dealt with accordingly. The administration is to enforce this rule strictly.

It has been inferred by a few that what is related here will mean the end for Belmont Abbey College because students will elect to go to colleges and universities that have at least a neutral environment. We at Belmont Abbey have greater faith in human beings than such a narrow and pragmatic view. The basic goodness in people and in our students, both present and past, encourages us to remain firm even in difficult times. We do not intend to be so pragmatic as to sacrifice our sacred values and traditions on the altar of expediency. We wish only the best for our students. Time and time again we are told by former students that what we have is not fully appreciated until their graduation. We are encouraged by these fine men and women to continue in our Christian, Catholic, and Benedictine tradition.

We are filled with a sense of pride and satisfaction when our former students frequently tell us they love the Abbey. We are repeatedly told not to secularize or cheapen the Abbey because much of their material success and happiness in life is due to the training received at Belmont Abbey College.

We desire to continue to build a loving community where all will work together for a better Belmont Abbey. The good image, tone, and quality of the Abbey will benefit all and ultimately enhance the opportunity for material and spiritual happiness.

We call upon all to help us shine even brighter in the future. You can send us students who desire to learn and to love, and you can encourage all your friends to lend us the necessary material aid to survive and to flourish in the years ahead.

Finally, we encourage you to write us an encouraging word of support, and we in turn will continue our prayers for you—our family, friends and benefactors.

With every good wish, I am  
Sincerely yours,  
(The Right Rev.) Edmund F. McCaffrey, O.S.B.  
Abbot Ordinary and  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

**Attention: Homecoming Weekend  
February 3**