

## Junior Year Abroad Program



Photo by Ritzert

An ancient fountain left from the time Rome ruled Aix.

The Abbey is happy to announce the complete success of its Junior Year Abroad program started last year with

Christopher Ritzert. He has returned to B.A.C. for his senior year and will receive his B.A. in political science in May. As a

sophomore, he was offered the opportunity to take his junior year in France by Madame LUC Rahier, Chairman of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages.

Ritzert achieved excellent results and received full academic credit, even though he had to adapt himself to a new type of teaching and a different life style, all while perfecting his knowledge of the French language.

Aix-en-Provence, an ancient city established by the Romans near the Mediterranean, was his home during the past academic year. La Provence is a region of legendary beauty, rich in history and art, with Aix as its former capital before being brought under the French crown.

According to Madame Rahier, Chris returns with a "perfect French accent" and an irreplaceable experience which will certainly profit him in the future.

"I have fantastic memories and many friends," he reports. "Living in France and sensing her civilization and culture have

been wonderful experiences. As a political science major I also profited from a totally different perspective of national and international politics. And of course travel opportunities during vacations are virtually unlimited."

Another student, Harold Neely of Mount Holly, is now in Lyon, France, following a preparatory course in the French language which will aid him in following classes in Aix-en-Provence in the second year of the program. The academic year in France is from late October to May.

In addition to the Junior Year Abroad program, being expanded by Madame Rahier and Mr. Jack Hanahan, the College has again received a scholarship from l'Alliance Francaise of Charlotte which allowed senior, H. Allen Morris to spend six weeks at their language school in Paris this past summer. Gary Urtz and Ritzert benefited from this grant in the summer of '72.

Belmont Abbey College internationalizes itself ... for the good of its students

## Review

The Jealous Ear  
By Robert Early



Robert Early

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Perhaps it has something to do with that old Southern blend of agrarian idealism and the 18th century romance with the noble savage. Or maybe it is just all that ambling through the tall grass. In any case, Southern writers have had a particular weakness for seeing beauty and naked truth through the eye of the innocent. Robert Early, 34, a North Carolinian and former Benedictine monk, uses the other senses as well. The Jealous Ear, his first novel, is about a boy's attempt to piece together his past and future from glimpses through door cracks, snatches of overheard conversations, strange odors and intimate brushes with the flesh.

Unlike the hero of Truman Capote's *The Grass Harp*, Egan

Fletcher Jr. does not live in a tree house. Home is what passes for a mansion in Kornelius - Above - the - Shoals, the Southern town where his grandfather owns the cotton mill. Egan lives there on the eve of World War II with his mother and sister, a 14-year-old in itchy jodhpurs. Grandfather DeWhit, a Dionysian Scattergood Baines, is not only the community's pillar but its lingam as well. Hints of his sexual reconnaissance on both sides of the color line are rampant.

Grandmother De specializes in winding her 15 clocks and never letting Egan's mother forget that she married beneath herself. The truth is that outside the hermetic DeWhit family, Egan Fletcher Sr. is a famous professional baseball player. He plays some unspecified position with a club known as the Washington Teutonians, but he is also an overpowering utility father figure. Returning for a stay with his family, he reignites his wife's banked passions and her family's recriminations. Grandfather dies, Egan's sister runs off with the first boy to find the buttons on her jodhpurs, and Grandmother spouts puritan pieties about everyone's troubles with their "bottom parts."

Early has a smooth way with the familiar Southern surfaces. But his story of a boy's awakening lifts his novel above the ordinary Southern tale of local "unforgettable" characters. Both young Egan's body and mind seem to bud together. Defining, then trying to name new experiences in his own way, lead to his first steps as a poet. Art, it appears, must provide him with the security and faith that an absent father - hero never did. It is a promising theme, particularly when suggested by the work of an author who left a religious order to write fiction.

## Hopes High As Crusaders

### Get Season Underway



Crusader Randy Schambach steals the ball from Rock Hill Soccer Club defenseman Jack Murphy. The Abbey defeated Rock Hill in a pre-season match 7-2. Murphy is a former Abbey star.

The Crusaders are looking forward to another fine season this year. Last year the team made it to the finals in the NAIA regional tournament.

This year's squad is packed with talent, both old and new. Veterans Ed Mancheno, Chris McDonald, Paul Zambito, Ed Burns, Bob Daniels, John Keaton, and co-captains Alex Kozak and Brian Murphy, will set the tempo for this year's season. In addition to the veterans the Crusaders have excellent new talent.

Abulkasim and Mousadak

Soussi, from Benghazi, Libya, have shown fine skills and knowledge of the game, and should help this year's team greatly. Other newcomers include; Lee Skidmore, Chris Antwi, Alfredo Binet, Bryan Aucremanne, Moses Swarray and Randy Schambach.

Looking at this year's team it will be difficult to find a weak spot in the whole squad.

The team has been working and will continue to work hard in an effort to better last year's season and possibly go to the nationals this year.