



Pictured with Abbot Edmund on his recent visit to Rome is Rt. Rev. Martino Matronola, O.S.B., (left) and Most Rev. Rembert Weakland, O.S.B. (middle).

NEWS...Miscellaneous

SAT SCORES CONTINUE TEN-YEAR DECLINE

Average scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) in 1972-73 continued a ten-year decline, the College Entrance Examination Board reported. T. Anne Cleary, chief of the Program Services Division of the College Board, said that, over the past decade, verbal scores dropped 35 points and math scores, 21 points.

She discounted speculation that the decline is due to a drop in the quality of the American education system. She said it is evident "that many factors, including family and home life, exposure to the mass media and other cultural and environmental factors are associated with students' performance."

Latest scores are reported in **National Composite College Board ATP Summary Report** which has been widely distributed to colleges, high schools and scholarship sponsors.

Credit: (Education and National Affairs V. XXIII, No. 1, P. 3 January 4, 1974)

Richmond Chapter President

Maurice P. (Rick) Fortune, a 1970 graduate of Belmont Abbey College, has been elected

president of the Richmond Abbey Alumni Chapter.

Fortune said the Richmond Chapter exceeded this year's goal of ten students from the Richmond Metropolitan Area. Fifteen Richmond area students went to the Abbey this fall. The chapter's goal for the 1974-75 year is 25 new students from the Richmond area.

Other executive officers elected from the Richmond area are: Dave O'Neil, vice president; Jay Ryan, secretary; and Pete McNally, treasurer.

WABY Receives Equipment Gift

Mr. Tommy Stutts, Chief Engineer, WBT-Radio, recently donated to WABY, the Belmont Abbey radio station, eight pieces of technical equipment: one audimax, two amplifiers, three playback cartridges, one tape re order cabinet, and one cartridge recorder.

The Reverend John P. Bradley, president of Belmont Abbey College, said in response to this gift, "...our students, who are very dedicated in their work for Belmont Abbey Radio, are most grateful for the equipment Mr. Stutts donated. Indeed, all of us here at the Abbey are appreciative since Belmont Abbey Radio performs an important service on campus."

The Identity Of A Catholic College

Editor's Note: This article in an excerpt from remarks by Fr. Kucera, President of Illinois Benedictine, at the annual Trustee's Dinner. The substance of Fr. Kucera's address concerns stating the identity of a Catholic college.

It has been pointed out that colleges that have boldly stated their purpose and stick to it are prospering, while many who attempt to be all things to all men end up being rejected. This accusation was recently leveled at Catholic colleges by Earl J. McGrath, a one-time United States Commissioner of Education.

A basic mistake is being made in higher education that is destroying a valuable variety of differences so necessary for a healthy system. Change is inevitable and necessary as history and society move on, but where should change occur?

There is ample evidence that it has occurred in the vital area of educational values, rather than where it is most needed--in the area of teaching methods. The nonsense of a neutral approach to the problems of life, letting the young make up their own minds by presenting endless alternatives, has produced a chaotic condition and may well

account for the malaise among current students and the disenchantment of high school seniors who do not want "to waste their time in college." Is this not an indictment of the aimlessness of American education?

At the same time, where change should take place, in teaching techniques suited to the modern technical age, much too little has been accomplished. Instead of standing firm in the area of principles, too many college teachers erect their fortifications to protect their cherished methods of teaching--which are too often simply variations of the worn-out lecture method, as if printing had never been invented.

Surely there is no great merit in a system of higher education composed of comparable but nondescript colleges and universities, purveying the ever increasing body of knowledge with little or no attempt at projecting the value system that is the sum and substance of man's security here and hereafter.

I am very proud of our goals statement, which takes a firm stand. It says: "At a time when private colleges are experiencing unprecedented

financial and social pressures to model themselves on each other and on the public colleges and universities, it behooves Illinois Benedictine to ask whether it now has, can strengthen, or can discover a distinct identity that will help give the college an internal coherence and excellence, and a positive external appeal." In the area of values, we answer this question in two parts: "The first argues that theology and the theological spirit are central to the college's understanding of itself and essential to the goal of liberal learning. We do not say that theology should formally be a part of every course and program, but, rather, that theology, instead of being quarantined in core type courses, should join with the other disciplines wherever faculty and students are exploring questions with transcendental implications. The second part argues that meaningful and not simply nominal Catholic Christian identity requires that the Catholic members of the College community actively live their faith, as appropriate to the setting, in terms of justice, charity and service. Consciously, and with mutual patience, the College needs to bring its various selves into the

wholeness which makes a community united at the deepest levels of human aspiration and feelings."

You will hear a great deal in the days ahead about the study currently going on on our campus, about possible curricular restructuring and so forth. I want to assure you to however, that such changes are changes of technique and organization, and not of content or value. A watering down of values will never happen at Illinois Benedictine.

To permit this would be to lose our sense of purpose, to make our rudder inoperative and thus expose the ship to the buffeting of every wind that blows. Our success, so amply demonstrated these days, has been achieved by holding a firm hand on that rudder and we intend to continue to do this. This is our trust which we accept as our Christian responsibility to our students, their parents and our friends. The Roman philosopher, Seneca, once said that no city becomes great by chance. No college becomes great by chance either. Illinois Benedictine's greatness will be its fidelity to its values and its ability to provide innovative educational techniques to make its efforts effective.