

Dr. Hartford

Reviews Book

by

Barry Commoner



M.B. Costea, Abbey student and former Associate Editor of the Free Lance (the student newspaper,) is currently studying at the Institut d'Etudes Francaises pour Etudiants Etrangers.

Mary Beth Costea

Spending Junior Year in France

Increasing interest is being manifested by Abbey students in the College's Junior Year Abroad Program which, after much planning, is now under active development.

Over a period of years, several students have taken advantage of the opportunities the program affords. This year there are four in Europe: Charles Roy is at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England; Harold Egan, Mary Beth Costea, and Richard McClintick are studying at the Institut d'Etudes Francaises pour Etudiants Etrangers, a division of the University of Aix-Marseille in Aix-en-Provence, France.

The author of this article, currently in Southern France, has enjoyed observing not only general cultural differences but also those in the system of higher education. The institut is designed to receive a special genre of student, i.e. foreign, non-French speakers, but its administration is similar to the "facultes," or main university divisions, and is actually a section of the faculte du droit at Aix. Classes are taught in French on three levels of study determined by students' capabilities. To receive credit from the Abbey, one must study on the superior level.

Due to the nature of the courses and the numbers enrolled, there is little emphasis placed on formal instruction in the spoken French language, a regrettable defect recognized by teachers, administrators, and students. One has, thus, to make a conscious effort outside the classroom to improve one's facility in the language.

Students at the Institut are encouraged to audit classes in any of the three university divisions: Science Politique, Lettres, Droit. Through attendance at such a variety of lectures, one can become acquainted with the overall university system and can more intimately perceive the experience of the average French student.

Classes resemble those in the larger American universities where vast numbers hear general lectures and make practical application of the subject matter in smaller discussion groups. Formal class hours are fewer than in America with a greater emphasis here placed on independent student research for dissertations and oral exposes of texts in classes. They are generally only two sets of tests given each year. Those in February are optional, but the required June exams are comprehensive and both oral and written.

The social life of French students (and of foreign students in France) is greatly different from that on

American campus, largely because students must fashion their private lives independently from any organized body. There are for example, no student unions, as such; no campus ministries, fraternities, or even student publications other than such pamphlets as are distributed by communist or other left-wing propagandist groups. Also, there is no "cut-system" and fewer reminders about homework from teachers: exams are what count and, for the Institut, the final oral exam is the ultimate determination for those who wish to receive the "diplome" which qualifies the bearer to teach French in any country outside France. It is awarded only on the superior level.

The city of Aix is situated in the Provence region of France and boasts of Roman origin, dry and temperate Mediterranean climate, and an abundance of fountains because of its location above thermal springs. It lies in a small valley in the shadow of Cezanne's Mt. St. Victoire, 20 kilometers from Marseille and the coast, four and a half hours by bus to Nice, Monaco and the Italian border. Five hours by train takes you to the Spanish frontier.

Aix is a relatively small town in area with a large population, mostly of students and retirees, who enjoy its pleasant climate. The true Aixois is a bourgeois minority, a small closed community that outsiders find hard to enter.

Life in Aix is slow, tranquil, and expensive. Institut students are generally housed in the town in private homes, apartments or single rooms which makes it possible to witness closely the daily life of a French family and to converse constantly with native inhabitants.

The Junior Year Abroad Program guarantees Abbey students a full year's credit, i.e. 30 hours, contingent upon the quality of performance and the completion of certain obligatory courses set up and reviewed by the advising faculty member and the academic dean. There is also an honors program for this year abroad, requiring a determined grade point average, an oral exam on the culture and life of the country (to determine conversational proficiency if a foreign language is in question) and a written memoire on some aspect of life observed during the year.

The Abbey students now involved in the program in France are by and large finding it quite satisfactory and are profiting especially from the responsibility of total independence.

by Mary Beth Costea

Abbey Centennial Fund

(Cont. from P. 1)

Martin, Jr., President of Textiles, Inc., of Gastonia.

Serving as ex-officio members of the Advisory Cabinet are Abbot Jude Cleary, O.S.B., Chancellor; and Rev. John P. Bradley, President of Belmont Abbey College.

President Bradley commented, "These men understand the needs of the College, and they recognize the importance of this institution to the cultural and economic health of this area. We feel indeed fortunate because they have agreed to accept positions of leadership and responsibility in this campaign."

GOALS SET

The announced goal for the first phase of the ten-year program of development has been set at \$750,000. This amount reflects the urgent minimum needs of the College including \$300,000 for scholarship funds and student aid programs; \$200,000 is needed for faculty and staff development; \$250,000 is needed for restoration of the Administration Building which houses

administrative offices and 11 classrooms. No new construction is planned at this time.

The campus section of the Centennial Fund campaign began a few weeks ago under the Chairmanship of Dr. George Herndl with representatives from faculty, staff, and administration serving on the Campus Committee. The committee accepted the goal of \$35,000 and gifts amounting to \$36,243 are pledged. "Our people have set a fine example through their generosity," said Dr. Herndl. "We hope their enthusiasm is contagious."

First Gifts Accepted

Mr. James P. Cherry, President of Goodwill Publishers, Inc. of Gastonia, presented a gift of \$150,000 to the Belmont Abbey College Centennial Fund, Thursday.

Immediately following the public announcement of the Campaign Advisory Cabinet, Mr. E.F. Gallagher, II, Cabinet Chairman, accepted the lead gift at a special meeting of the Board of Advisors bringing the

total contributions pledged to \$341,743.

On the same occasion Abbot Jude Cleary, O.S.B., Chancellor of the College, announced that \$27,500 has been pledged by the monks of the Belmont Abbey Community. This gift, added to \$36,243 pledged by faculty, administration and staff members, brings the total from the Campus Campaign to \$63,743 exceeding by far the target of \$35,000.

Abbot Jude commented that this gift of the Benedictine monks is a special contribution in addition to the annual support of nearly \$200,000 provided by the College by the monastery.

Golf Contest Planned

There are tentative plans underway for an alumni golf tournament to be held in the Washington, D.C. area. Anyone who is interested, please contact the Alumni Office, Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, N.C., 28012; or Jay Briody, 8236 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield, Va., 22152.