

Are we alone?

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speculation in these matters agree that the distance and astronomical times involved in interstellar or intergalactic exploration make it most practical to employ a device (called a "von Neumann machine") which may be programmed to reproduce itself and construct anything else necessary for exploration from materials gathered en route in space. Our own computer and robot technology is advanced enough to create such a machine, so Tipler assumes that any species advanced enough to search outer space would have reached at least our level of capability (though why it should be identical to ours, I am not convinced). Tipler argues that if such devices were to be used, the galaxy, if not the universe, would soon be teeming with life (the machine could carry spores or genetic material to construct life to inhabit suitable places) or at least these machines would permeate space because each machine could land on a planet, plant life, gather material to replicate itself several times over, and launch the offspring to do the same. However, he says, as the galaxy does not appear to be swarming with life or these devices, the civilizations to send them out must not exist.

This is an interesting argument, but not a sound one. In addition to begging the question, he employs very narrow criteria, as I have argued others generally do, in his vision of the form in which any intelligent life would manifest itself. Look for his views and further references to his work in the September, 1980, and June and September, 1981 issues of *The Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society*; or see the three-page precis of that series in the April, 1981 *Physics Today*.

In the end, it could be that the whole question of what resides in outer space is moot because it is becoming more un-

likely that we will spend the time and money in the near future to find the evidence to prove or discredit any of these theories. Federal budget cuts have delayed our country's plans to take closer looks at Jupiter and cancelled probes aimed at Venus and Halley's comet. It is regrettable that money is

running out at the same time that technology has advanced to the point at which we could answer some of our questions about what is out there. The space shuttle has been developed, and is successful, but will it be employed for research or defense? We must hope that for now, and in the future, international

cooperation will help support our efforts to learn more about our world.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is a revised version of a three-part series written by Dr. Esthimer for THE GUIDE magazine, published by WDBS-FM in Durham, North Carolina, February-April, 1982.

ST. MARY'S SPORTS

SOCCER TEAM

by Tina Ethridge

The soccer season has started on the right foot. The players won their first game against Cardinal Gibbons 4-1. The goals were made by Susan Gardner-3 and Blair Scruggs-1. Coach Alexander felt that the team worked well together, especially in the first half. In addition, she felt that the team had really controlled the midfield. The defense was good when put to the test. Coach Alexander still feels there is room for improvement in the areas of ball control, conditioning, and passing. Coach Alexander commented that, "Overall I was very pleased with the game and with everyone's effort."

SOCCER TEAM MEMBERS

Team Members: Jane Corpening, Janet Cozart, Judy Crook, Lauren Diltney, GiGi Evins, Susan Gardner, Susan Garland, Kristi Hale, Mariana Harriss, Meriweather Hill, Sandy Jackson, Lele Kirkland, Sally Maddison, Jàne Marlowe, Heather Miller, Cindy Nelson, Margaret Park, Courtney Scott, Blair Scruggs, Carter Smith, Holly Stephenson, Shannon Taylor, Mary Thompson, Shannon Coleman (Manager), and Leigh Moore (Manager).

SOCCER SCHEDULE

March 19	at Greenfield School	4:00
March 21-22-23	at Hale Invit. Tournament	TBA
March 26	at Ravenscroft	4:00
March 28	at Vance Sr. High	7:30
April 1	at Apex Sr. High	4:00
April 3	at Durham Academy	4:00
April 16	at Salem Academy	4:00
April 22	at Fayetteville Academy	4:00
April 25	at Cardinal Gibbons	4:00
May 1	at Greensboro Day School	4:00

TENNIS TEAM

St. Mary's tennis team is swinging high with impressive wins. On March 12 against Queens, St. Mary's won 5-4. The following day, St. Mary's lost only by one in a scrimmage against High Point College. On March 14, SMC rallied against Duke University by defeating them 6-3. Most recently, SMC defeated rival Meredith College with an impressive victory.

TEAM MEMBERS

Team Members: Meg Adams, Senior; Margaret Barnes, Junior; Lynn Barton, Senior; Julie Brady, Senior; Carter Fauber, Junior; Kathryn Finney, Junior; Kathy Gada, Junior; Allison Helmick, Junior; Melissa Smith, Junior; and Suzanne West, Senior.

TENNIS SCHEDULE

March 20	at Salem College	2:30
March 25	Queens College	3:00
March 28	Salem College	2:30
April 2	A.C.C. (there)	2:30
April 10	Campbell University	2:00
April 11	Anderson College	2:00
April 13	Salem Invitation (there)	ALL DAY

St. Mary's Prepares for Annual Spring Festival

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the Honor Society. She has also been involved with the soccer team, the Granddaughter's Club, and Gillie Callum. Sally will be at the University of North Carolina next year.

Hope Dooner is one of the freshmen representatives this year. She is from Atlanta. Hope is president of the freshman class. She is a lay reader, an acolyte, and a member of FCA. Hope played La Poncia in "The House of Bernada Alba". She is also on the swim team and in the

Scoop.

Alystre Julian is the freshman representative from Statesville. She is the freshman class treasurer, and is involved in many activities on campus.

The student body has selected an excellent May Court this year. The May Court is one of the special aspects of St. Mary's in which meaningful traditions of the college are upheld. This May Court, which represents the entire student body, is one of which St. Mary's can truly be proud.

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