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crossroads

CROSSROADS

Belmont Abbey College

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Abbot Announces Property Development

Abbot Edmund recently announced the Abbey's intention to develop 500 acres of its prime land. At a time when private institutions are closing at a rate of about one a week, when competition for students is at a feverish pitch, when fiscal pressures are overwhelming, and when the gap between the costs of public and private colleges is widening, Belmont Abbey has decided to meet the challenges head-on and, as in private industry, fight for its survival.

Abbey estates, as the tract is known, provides for commercial, industrial, office, research, and residential development. Growth of the Estates will be coordinated by the Investment Management Group of North Carolina National Bank. Abbey Estates, Belmont, North Carolina, is located along I-85 and U.S. 29 and 74 between Charlotte and Gastonia, only minutes from Douglas Airport, and is served by the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad. The Benedictine Monks, believing that people must have the right environment

to perform well, plan the development not only to ensure the continuing productivity of the College, but also to enrich the nearby communities by providing business opportunities in an attractive environment offering good schools, recreational areas, cultural activities, modern medical service, superb transportation facilities and above all, warm and congenial people.

Abbey Estates will offer three distinct kinds of opportunities: residential, light industrial, and office-research. The Abbey's plan calls for a residential community of approximately 1,800 living units consisting of apartments, patio houses, and town houses, all designed to conform to an open-space concept of rural living with urban conveniences.

The light industrial sites have sewerage, electrical, and telephone capability available. Water will be furnished through the town of Belmont. The gently rolling terrain allows each site to be individually tailored to requirements.

Living in Washington or its suburbs nearly all my life didn't prepare me for United States politics and government in Europe. Washington is the varied governmental bureaucracies housed in white marble monuments to the taxpayer's dollar. It is the stately embassies and a sampling of world-wide cultures and populations. Washington is where kids learn their ABC's and HUD's at the same time. ("My dad's CIA can beat your dad's FBI any ole day.") And many learn their G.S. ratings long before their multiplication tables. Washington is government and politics, and the people know them both. It's their job. Living amidst this, however, did not prepare me for the far reaches of our powerful government.

It's also the airport in Athens, Greece, "a joint project by the Greek and United States governments." Not far away we find the quarters for the Navy's Mediterranean fleet. It's meeting the Army corporal who is stationed in Turkey. He tells a sourly-amusing story of how a

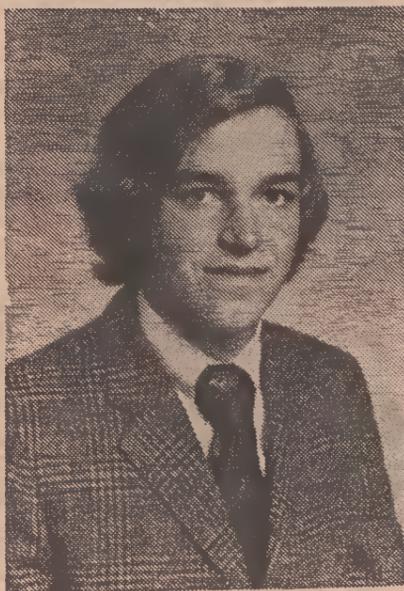


FROM L. TO R., Rev. John Bradley, President of B.A.C.; Abbot Edmund McCaffery; Floyd Boyce, Vice President and Trust Officer, NCNB; and J.P. Smith, Comptroller of the college.

The office-research sites are assured of large open areas, adequate parking, and attractiveness. Proximity to the College suggests a labor force at the doorstep as well as cultural opportunities and technical expertise within minutes.

At a time of financial, student, and social pressures and uncertainties, the decision to

develop Abbey Estates demonstrates an unyielding determination to continue providing quality education in the Benedictine tradition to the young men and women of North Carolina, and by so doing to offer a place where people will enjoy living and working, thus complementing the educational environment of Belmont Abbey College.



Abbey Junior Chris Ritzert, who is spending the current academic year studying at the University of Aix-en-Provence, wrote recently to report on his experiences and impressions in Europe. Crossroads offers the following excerpts from Chris's letter, believing them to be of general interest, as well as illustrative of the value of foreign study.

U.S. Politics Abroad

multi-million dollar memorial somehow took priority over a multi-million dollar road project ... compliments of you and me. It's the government-employed telescope technician from New Jersey working in foreign government's observatory. It's the many varying opinion that are often voices, ranging from awe at such a powerful and plentiful nation. (It's so big!) (Your state is bigger than my country!) to outright hate ("Nixon - assassin - U.S. Out.") and hostility.

Being my first opportunity to vote in Federal Elections (and from Europe, no less), the recent elections were of particular interest to me. Following no American (or English) publications or broadcasts, I feel that I suffered no handicap in keeping up with not only the elections themselves, but the preceding campaigns. All along the campaign trail, newspapers, radios, and televisions offered discussion of

issues along with public opinion and sentiment. The week before the elections, major newspapers often reserved several pages for the latest development in the campaign, as well as feature reports such as the American political system, the election mechanics (the electoral college, etc.) and biographies. Hourly reports from New York were broadcast throughout the week.

Often amusing in such reports was the absence of any mention of Vice-President Spiro Agnew, when discussing the "Nixon-Kissinger ticket." Sargent Shriver, Senator McGovern's running mate, is well-known in France since he was the U.S. Ambassador several years ago.

Most young Europeans are very knowledgeable in world politics and discuss them fluently (in three languages). Finding those equally well-drilled in the U.S. politics can hardly be called rare.

(See POLITICS, page 6)