

D.S.L. Sorority

This semester, the Abbey's first sorority has been formed on campus.

Delta Psi Lambda is composed of twenty Abbey co-eds, including: Fran Ambrose, Sharon Beall, Mandy Cleveland, Nancy Cruz, Jean Evarts, Sari Hall, Jeannie Hamilton, Margaret Hendrick, Lisa Howell, Lisa Laskas, Donna Lyman, Donna Maloni, Peggy McCluskey, Jo Ann Mills, Barb Owens, Kathy Prather, B. J. Sands, Jean Suarts, Jane Shannon, and Patty Truax.

Historians are Nancy Cruz, and Lisa Howell, Donna Maloni is Parliamentarian, Kathy Prather is Treasurer, Sari Hall is Secretary, Vice-President is Jane Shannon, and President is Lisa Laskas. Br. Paul (B.P) is the sorority advisor.

The sorority was formed because the Abbey women felt a need for an organization for women, and were anxious to foster an atmosphere different from that created by the fraternity system.

Lisa explained that, "The main function of the sorority is to provide services for the college and community as op-

posed to a strictly social organization."

As a part of their goal, on Sunday, November 7, fourteen of Delta Psi Lambda's members swabbed arms for swine flu vaccinations at Mount Holly General Hospital.



St. Benedict stands before the roofless, boarded up Brother's Building, which burned during Easter Week 1960.

In 1965, the Statue was moved to the front of the Cathedral.

Library Holds Valuable Books

Very few students realize the treasure chest which Belmont Abbey's library holds in its deep, dark interior. In this coffer is the collection of rare and valuable books, some of which are not obtainable anywhere else in North America or England. Most of these books and manuscripts are of intense interest to librarians, scholars, and

research students who often travel a long distance to view these valuables.

Among the library's outstanding accumulations are included five incunabula, hand-written books, which were produced before the 1500's -- that is, the "cradle days" before the printing press. In addition, about 200 of the

books were printed in the early part of the 16th century. One of the oldest books in the collection, published in 1476, is *Alberti Magni*, a Venetian theological work which boasts a "handdone, illuminated initial" still in its original colors with only a trace of fading. A 1509 Roman book of Marcus Lucan's is also one of the very old collection. A special characteristic of these old books is their vellum, "Fine grained lambskin or calfskin prepared for writing or for binding books." After 400 years, they are still in excellent condition.

Also of peculiar interest is the 1674 "Catholique Apology With a Reply" by a "person of honor," (the anonymity necessitated

by the Catholic persecutions at the time; Roger Castlemaine would not have benefited in any way by having his name published!)

The *Blue Laws of Connecticut, Code of 1650* (30 years after the Pilgrims' landing) begins the collection of rare American books. Collections other than the "rare", "valuable", and "American" categories are "Autographed", "Benedictine", and "North Carolina" collections.

Most of these valuables are written in the languages of Latin, Greek, German, and French. One of the library's most valuable is the 1565 *Old Testament Hebrew Bible*, "published by the direction of Christopher Plantine, Minister of

Bamberg, Germany," and is contained in six volumes, all of which the library possess.

One of the most important donors of these domes was the Most Reverend Emmett M. Walsh, Bishop of Charleston. This donation of 1942 is known as the "Charleston Collection," and includes the complete Migne collection of 1000 "bound, royal octave" volumes, which have been out of print for a considerable number of years and are extremely rare. Other donors were Fr. Julius Pohle (Dec. 1924) and the Reverend Father Thomas Oesterrich from St. Maur's Priory in Bristol, Va.

To this date, approximately 1000 volumes have been catalogued. The Abbey's collections, as typical of most rare collections, are arranged by size into three categories -- small, medium, and large. This mode of shelving is employed to protect the small books (often only 3" tall) from being literally squashed by the larger books. Likewise the large books are supported by the other large editions which, if put beside smaller books, would bend at the binding.

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Biology Dept. Needs Teacher

In the changing world of today, it has become more and more necessary for man to examine his environment and the biological factors encompassed within it. This is prudent if one is to make rational and moral judgments concerning the world around him; he must first have the facts which will allow him to reach valid decisions. That is, unless one is aware of basic facts, he is, in effect, simply "shadowboxing." "The lack of background in the hard sciences is an impediment to the acquisition of a true liberal arts education," Dr. Jeannie Stuart stated.

Biology became a major at B.A.C. in 1969. Its upperclassmen major count has grown greatly since 1972. And although the present biology curriculum prepares the conscientious Abbey

student to be competitive with students elsewhere (five recent graduates are currently enrolled in medical schools and dental schools, as well as several in fine graduate programs), the present program lacks two needed courses, cell biology and embryology (embryology is only offered on the honors level). The two courses are needed in order to truly be "where the main thrust of biology is today," says Dr. Stuart. However, there are no courses which may be dropped and at the same time offer the biology student an adequate selection of courses in his major. The logical solution to this dilemma, and one which has been needed for some time, is that there be three full-time biology faculty members at B.A.C. At present, there are only two full-time biology faculty personnel.

The need for three full-

time biology faculty personnel may be clearly seen from the results of a survey taken of thirty-five (35) small private colleges in the southeast. Here it was found that biology faculty averaged ten to twelve contact hours per week, whereas the biology faculty at B.A.C. carry approximately twice that number of hours, using a like basis for calculation. In addition, the number of upperclassmen biology majors to full-time biology faculty averaged one to nine in the survey, whereas the Abbey's ratio is approximately double that number.

Even with the increase in enrollment in the biology major, science continues to draw good students. Out of the thirty-seven students allowed unrestricted absences this semester, twelve are science majors. Out of the six graduating suma cum

laude in 1976, two were biology majors.

Proportion-wise, quality is still present even though the numbers in the biology department have greatly increased.

The biology department has been most fortunate in receiving several outstanding contributions. John Lippard (class of 1938) recently contributed an electron microscope and other equipment worth \$10,000 collectively. Other handsome contributions have been received from Dr. Raul Aizcorbe and Harry Binder, who have both given significant physiology equipment.

The biology department's budget has been increased this year from 40 percent of lab fees collected to 66 percent of lab fees collected. However the pressing problem of obtaining a third full-time biology faculty member still is present.