

PRESERVING THE PAST AND PRESENT **FOR THE FUTURE**



"Retreat Day closes with Benediction"
Black Robe, 1953

LE MOYNE HISTORY

THE TIMES, THEY WERE A-CHANGING...

Without doubt, our cozy little campus on the Heights looks little like it did during its first years; perhaps one of the most striking changes is that of the student body, both in thought *and* appearance. Gone are the days when freshmen were prohibited from using the central stairway in the Administration Building or when a courageous female co-ed donning slacks for class was a scandal. No longer are curfews mandated, nor is the campus a “dry” one. Yet perhaps the most visible change is the absence of freshman beanies and senior black robes.

In September of 1950, the first graduating class geared up for commencement the following spring. From this impending celebration grew a tradition to Le Moyne. The Senior Academic Gowns became required attire for all seniors and were to be worn during classes and all other academic functions. However, over the years, there was some discontent with this request. Still, such an honor was appreciated by most; this black robe tradition had existed on other Jesuit campuses since before the Second World War. The most predominant concern, interestingly, was the confusion it gave to incoming students, who often had difficulty distinguishing fellow students from their professors!

Since the seniors already had their distinctive garb, it was now thought necessary to give the new students one as well, so that they also would have the chance to identify their *own* classmates. The new faces were then laden with their own tradition – the “frosh” beanie and button. The enforcement of these symbols lasted right up until the very late 1960s; such requirements included the tipping of their beanies to all senior *and* faculty members of the college community. Yet, as time went on, passivity and tradition were met with resistance and rebellion.

Opposition to the war in Vietnam began in 1965 at Le Moyne, and with it came a revolt against arbitrary authority and senseless regulations. Senior Margaret M. Raynor, of the Class of '67, accused Le Moyne of practicing “prudish medievalism” toward co-eds who inevitably were moving away from their former wardrobes and jumping head-first into the atmosphere of a new age. Others challenged the accusations of students like Ms. Raynor. In fact, many editorials

are found in The Dolphin advocating the maintenance of such traditions of the past. This side wished to see the enforcement of practices such as the frosh beanie and senior black robe, along with a greater appreciation of their value.

"Wear it, Frosh!" were the introductory words of Raymond Smith's 1968 editorial on the importance of upholding tradition on campus. He explained that much more respect should have been on the black robe, for it represented the "ultimate aspiration of incoming freshmen" and thus deserved to be continued. Mr. Smith would later be very disappointed with his failed attempt to advocate tradition. Within a mere *two* years, the new freshman class would walk onto campus *without* their beanies.

"Every corpse must be shrouded," said Bill Schubert in a September 1970 edition of the school's newspaper. During the 1969-1970 academic year, student boycotts and confrontations swept the nation's campuses, even reaching Le Moyne. The world was changing, the times were changing, and, quite conspicuously, the students were changing. Will the traditions of today be lost or replaced with those of tomorrow as well? ■

NOTE FROM THE ARCHIVIST:

One of the recent "buzz words" in American education is "empowerment." The idea is to give students the power to be creative, responsible, and to "do their own thing" rather than regurgitate spoon-fed material. This issue of Archive News, I believe, is a fine example of empowerment. Ms. Tracy Savard '05, history intern, is the sole editor and writer of all the material that appears in this issue. I am impressed; I am sure that you will be too.



A VOICE...FROM THE PAST

SPOTLIGHT ON NEIL NOVELLI



One might imagine the wealth of written treasures that fill the College's Archives. Less known, however, are the oral histories that have been meticulously transcribed; it is the intimacy of these interviews that provides the missing links to our school's past and beckons them to come alive once more. Since 1958, Dr. Cornelius Novelli has taken center stage in the English Department at Le Moyne; his oral contribution to the Archives, unquestionably, is as lively as his classes.

What has been your favorite class to teach here at Le Moyne?

It is a toss up between poetry and Shakespeare. Mainly, you can see students make great strides. You never know what is going to happen. There is a lot of room for creativity, and there is a lot of room for their own drive and discovery.

What is your favorite kind of student?

Oh, there are so many great students! But the take-charge student is my favorite...the one who charts their own course...one with a lot of energy, zeal, optimism and realism. I won't even talk about my least favorite kind of student...I don't have one. They do what they can; they do what they are able to do. I don't have any students that I wish were not here; they come as they are.

About the new Performing Arts Center — Are you happy with the change?

Oh sure! It is a beautiful place. I have seen some theaters that have that set-up, and it is really dynamic. The acting space comes out into the middle of the audience. You have a theatrical excitement in that kind of space...it is almost like a runway into the audience. There is a closer sense of participation.

What is the most positive thing about being part of Le Moyne?

I would have to say having the chance to work with students, share learning with them both ways. Teachers discover more than they teach...that has just been the greatest thing at Le Moyne. It doesn't stop. I never wish that it is Friday so I could leave or think, "Oh God! It's Monday again." That's partly because the students are just a joy to work with.

How would you like to be remembered for your time at Le Moyne?

As a teacher; that will do.

WE WANT YOU!

YOUR "JUNK" IS OUR TREASURE!



Make a contribution to the collection or use it as a reference...

- Minutes, memoranda and documents for all major academic and administrative committees
- Academic and personal papers from faculty and administrators
- Publications, including newsletters, yearbooks, videotapes and brochures
- Non-current correspondence, including printed versions of e-mail
- Annual reports, committee reports, departmental reports, task force reports



Stand Out from the Crowd —
SUPPORT the ARCHIVES!

LE MOYNE TRIVIA— DID YOU KNOW...

- In 1962, demerits were awarded to students for breaking rules. A total of 12 demerits won a student a “campus” – confinement to the residence hall from 7:30 pm on Friday to 8 am on Sunday! A look at *some* of these offenses:
 - Refrigerator not clean...4
 - Boots left out of place...1
 - Room disorder...2
 - Dishes left undone, garbage not removed...4
 - Unmade beds...1
 - Articles left in living room...1
 - General noise and confusion during study hours...2-5
 - Not signing out...3
- In 1972, a proposal for coed living on campus was denied because such living arrangements would fail to maintain the “fidelity of Le Moyne’s values!”
- In 1992, Le Moyne’s women’s softball team won against Cortland State in the 21st inning! This game tied for 2nd place in NCAA Division II history for the highest number of innings with Portland State and Eastern Illinois in 1982. 1st place was between Bloomsburg and Sacred Heart in 1984 with 23 innings!
- Tuition in the 1955-1956 academic year jumped 20% from the previous year to a whopping \$600!
- An entering freshman survey conducted at Saint Peter’s College in 1965 and at Le Moyne College in 1999 revealed the following:
 - 1965 – 38% smoked;
1999 – 15% smoked
 - 1965 – 70% agreed that the federal government could be trusted;
1999 – only 39% agreed
 - 1965 – 65% watched television for at least 30 hours a week;
1999 – only 38% watched the same amount
- In 1960, Le Moyne College had 1,097 full-time students enrolled; the “ideal” size was hoped to be 1,500!

SOMETHING FISHY IN THE DOLPHIN?

April 13, 1957

Rev. Robert F. Grewen, S.J.

Le Moyne College

Dear Father Rector:-

PC.

I was looking over the March 29th issue of The Dolphin and found it very interesting.

It occurred to me as I viewed the ad for Genesee beer on the last page that the attire of the young lady might occasion some raised eyebrows in Rome.

With all good wishes, I remain

Devotedly in Corde Jesu,

Thomas E. Henneberry, S.J.

September 30, 1978

Editor

The Dolphin

Le Moyne College

Syracuse, NY 13214

Dear Editor:

How about putting the lid on raunchy 'Personals and Classifieds' such as some of those that appeared in the September 29 issue of The Dolphin. One normally expects young people to work through that particular phase of adolescence somewhere around sophomore year of High School. The fact that some students evidently have not yet outgrown this tendency should not imply that The Dolphin has to indulge their phantasies in print. It detracts from what is otherwise a very well-written and composed student publication.

Sincerely,

Ramon A. Salomone, S.J.

Rector of the Jesuit Community

Adjunct Associate Professor of Chemistry



**Be nice to the
Archivist,
or YOU will be
erased from history!**

Send all inquiries and materials to:

William J. Bosch, S.J.

Le Moyne College Archives

Archive Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. / 1 - 4:30 p.m.

E-mail: boschwj@lemoyne.edu

Visit the Archives on the Web!

Enter "Le Moyne College Archives" on Google.com