# LE MOYNE SPIRIT. INQUIRY, LEADERSHIP. JESUIT. ARCHIVENEWS Vol. 7. No. 2

## THE ARCHIVIST'S CREED:

Honor the Past, Enrich the Present, Protect the Future



Boot & Buskin Cotillion Corinthian Club Spring 1956

#### AT THE CREATION

Despite all of the amazing enthusiasm for Dolphy Day, confusion, conjectures, and unsubstantiated assumptions abound concerning its beginning. After doing extensive research, we present, for the first time, the definitive history.

The historian relies on two types of sources to ascertain the facts: the printed record and firsthand oral history. In this case, the printed record is the reporting of the event in the student newspaper, the *Piper*, which had replaced the *Dolphin* in 1970. The first reference to Dolphy Day appeared in a brief note in a column by Isaac Snopes on May 17, 1971. He wrote: "After a year of winter, Eric Dolphy Day had been comparatively blazing. Noontime, the reddish sky had peaked, with eye-squint brilliancy, and the freshman and his cow had set the day aside for leisure upon the grass behind Dablon Hall. They had successfully lain there through a total afternoon until the unfamiliar face of the sun passed red behind the dusty Syracuse horizon." Note that our oral source, presented later, might explain the nature of the reporter's literary style.

In 1972, there is no reference to Dolphy Day; however, two *Piper* front-page articles concerned spring. The first was entitled "Le Moyne Student Scorns Spring." It was an ironic take, depicting a scrooge, a nay-sayer, berating those celebrating spring's coming to Syracuse. There is no reference to a Dolphy Day. The second article was "Spring Fever Plagues Heights" by Colleen Littlejohn. This was a humorous trip to Student Health Services, where they were treating spring fever. There was no mention of Dolphy Day.

The *Piper's* April 6, 1973, pg.5 article by Joan Gillen was titled "Eric Plans Yearly Orgy for Spring." She wrote that "a day for doing a little bit of everything, but not much of anything, will soon arrive. It is predicted that on the next warm, sunny day, when the ground is dry and the grass is green, it will be Eric Dolphy Day. Eric Dolphy Day is a unique Le Moyne custom. The two-year tradition continues and hopefully, its end is not in sight. The day is unsupervised and disorganized, which leads to the conclusion that it must be fun."

I have adopted the mantra "The library reference desk knows everything." For example, through Mr. Wayne Stevens, I found out the existence of Le Moyne's "deep throat." I did not meet him in a subterranean garage, but there were secret restrictions and caveats about the information given. Since the two lead characters

in the creation of Dolphy Day have gone on to very different – but noble careers – their real names will not be used.

In 1971, the cultural revolution of the 1960s was still sweeping America. Anti-war protest, women's and black liberation, beat culture – all affected the campus to some degree. Caught up in the age's ethos was "Peter," as we shall call him, one of the few true 'hippies' to grace Le Moyne's campus. Peter was 'off-the-wall,' attending few classes; he 'mellowed' out in his dorm room. One source for this mellowing was his annual 'Indiana Expedition.' Once a year, he would drive out to an Indiana farm and harvest the marijuana that had been planted among the corn. Report has it that it was good weed, if weak. He would bring a huge amount back and stash it in his dorm room. Naturally, a recognizable odor arose, so Peter got a heavy, banana-scented deodorant as a cover up which made the whole corridor smell like a tropical island.

Peter had a close friend; let us call him Oscar. Oscar was in many ways the opposite of Peter. He was a rather uptight guy and a dedicated student. What brought them together was that they both were great jazz aficionados. One warm spring day in 1971, as they and a few friends mellowed out in the dorm room playing records, they hit upon works of the jazz artist Eric Dolphy. Whether to celebrate the nominal connection with the Le Moyne Dolphin or not, the inspiration came to them to share their spring euphoria with the rest of the campus. Peter ran to the quad and started handing out joints to each and every student he met. Oscar put his boom box in his room's window and turned it up to thunderous volume playing Eric Dolphy selections. And that was the first Dolphy Day.

Deep throat was an eye-witness to these events and affirms what he relates is true. Other sources collaborate this definitive history.



## LETTERS OF NOTE

## The Development Office tried to 'Hit Up' a Celebrity

July 6. 1979

Vlad Ziu Valentino Liberace 4993 Wilbur Street Las Vegas, Nv. 89119

Dear Liberace,

The enclosed brochure describes a very important project we are undertaking here at Le Moyne College.

I thought you might have some interest because: 1) our college library house a fine

historical collection of Polish murals and tapestries (see copy of article);

the new Library will be built in the Shape of a piano.

If you are in the Northeast I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this project in some detail. There are several memorial opportunities.

All the best wishes for your good health and career.

Sincerely, Ted Furze Edward W. Furze Director of Development and Community Relations

And a letter that reveals a sociological insight.

TO: Dr. Barbara Blaszak Associate Academic Dean FROM: Dr. Robert F. Kelly Chair, Sociology

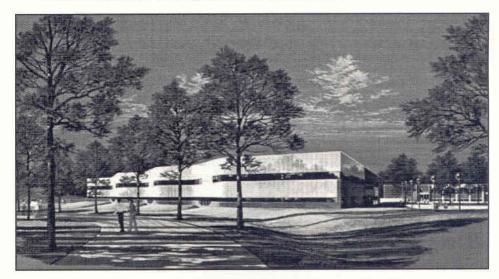
DATE: October 21, 1987

RE: CL415

It has been my experience that departmental chairs are a territorial lot. They attempt to protect academic turf and acquire office space. Consistent with this quasi-primitive, quasi-bureaucratic phenomenon, I recently found myself coveting CL415, the apparently vacant office next to CL416, the Sociology chair's office. Next year our department will be fully staffed and in need of a fourth office. My hope is that you will store this memo in anticipation of any future deliberations concerning the fate of CL415.

## "The new library will be built in the shape of a piano." [cf. Letters of Note]

If Liberace had donated one of his rhinestone vests for auction, would the campus have a Polish science building in the form of a candlabera?



## LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Over 70 members of the Le Moyne College community have provided oral histories that have given crucial insights about the persons and history of the College. Recent contributors have been: William Barnett, James Bernauer, S.J., Frank Hermann, S.J., Barbara McClure, J. Donald Monan, S.J., Lou De Gennaro, Michael Krause and Marcia Ruwe.

The process is simple. I will provide questions to prod your memory about your connections to Le Moyne. This makes it easy for you to order your thoughts and assures you that there will be no trick questions or surprises. You can answer or not answer any question I submit. My part in the interview will be to read the questions, prompting your comments. The interview can be done in person or by a taped telephone call.

The reflections of members who have been actively involved in the board of trustees, board of regents, and the alumni governing board would be especially appreciated.

If you would be willing to take part in this college program, please contact the archivist, William J. Bosch, S.J., at 445-4732.

## VOICE FROM THE PAST

Sue Gibbons, a key member of the athletic department from 1962 to 2001, was involved with physical education, intramurals and club sports.

Bosch: So who was the first woman's coach? Was it Sandy or...

Gibbons: Actually the first women's coach was Mr. Niland. He coached the women's basketball team the first year they had it and he loved every minute of it.

B: I can imagine.

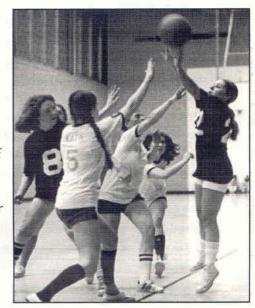
G: The kids absolutely loved him. One of his old players was watching the practice one day. He said to Niland after: "Boy, have you changed. You never said to one of us going in for a lay-up, 'You took off of the wrong foot, sweetie!"

B: So how have women's athletics changed during your time at Le Moyne?

G: Oh, wow! It used to be that women's intramurals were conducted on Monday nights. Monday night was ladies' night in the gym. No men allowed. That changed quite a bit because the participation was so high. Then I instituted some co-ed intramural activities, so we ran them on other nights, too. The more kids you can get participating, the better, and the co-ed activities are fun.

B: I was one who broke the rule in intramural basketball. International House made up a team where we had a black, a Hispanic, a Jesuit and two women. Of course, Tommy didn't like that. There was much hassle over it. It was one of IH's breakthroughs. What was the effect of Title IX?

G: Mr. Niland wasn't always really big pro-women's athletics personally. Personally he many not have agreed with it but he saw to it that Le Moyne was right up with and ahead of most other schools as far as offering opportunities for women in sports. Obviously Title IX affected us like it did everyone else. Right now, we offer the same number of varsity sports for men and women. Mr. Niland was on the cutting edge in the beginning to make sure we were in compliance or ahead of it.



## "DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?"

#### THE DOLPHIN

Oct. 4, 1951

#### THE DOLPHIN

September 17, 1952

#### NOTA BENE

Women's attire should be fitting to time, place and occasion. Ultramasculine modes which are elsewhere considered fashionable for coeds are not permitted. Moreover the standards of Christian modesty will guide each student in the choice of dress, especially her formal dress; this should conform to the pronouncements of our Holy Father in speaking of Christian modesty.

Freshmen will park only at the cast side of the service entrance off Salt Springs Road, Students may not park their cars in the service area between the Cafeteria and the garage, or in the areas marked Faculty. Upperclassmen may park in the rear of both the Administration and Science buildings, and the west side of the Science building.

The spaces immediately behind the Cafeteria dock and the receiving room at the rear of the Science building must be kept open for delivery. No parking will be allowed on the main drive or in front of the buildings, Cars may not be parked on the rear drive.

Cafeteria-To expedite service, students are required to return all dishes, silver and trays to the receiving window at the right of the service counter. They should dispose of debris and clear the tables of milk bottles. The Student Council will impose a fiftycent fine for failure to com-



### THE TROTTER POLL By JOHN CONSIDINE

#### ONE TROT BEHIND THE GALLUP POLL

The black gowns worn by the Seners were the subject of much discuson and controversy as they made seir initial appearance. So, naturilly, the question for this issue is What is your impression of the Senr gowns?"

Bob Wegerski, Sr. B

"It's the nuts for cheaters." (But exams don't start 'till January.) Sandra Donaldson, Jr. E.

"They look the same as last year, only the holes are bigger and the seats are thinner," (Too much time spent on the seat of learn-

Ed Kowalski, Jr. D.

"Economical-because you can wear them over your pajamas. Useful-because they dust the steps and keep the school clean." (Better keep a crease in those pajamas or the Dean of Men will be looking for you.)

Ray Lang, Sr. A

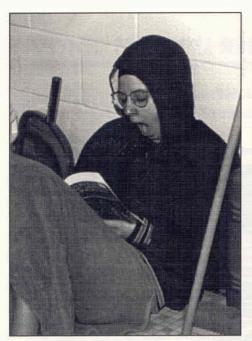
"They hide more than some people think." (What color are your pajamas?)

Father Cunnion

"They are bachelor's gowns not undergraduate gowns, but it's the only chance that some of the seniors will get to wear them." (Any good books on how to pass exams P)

Kevin Mahoney, Frosh Physics "I think it adds a great deal of distinction to the Seniors, but it confuses the poor freshmen, for they can't tell whether to address them as teachers or not." You can address us as teachers; we don't mind'

VII Dan Mulcaher, Sr. A. When I put it on in the morning, I felt like village idiot. Now it seems like a good idea, for it serves to set apart the Seniors as at least something different." Different from what? the villace idiot?





Life can be dull, boring, a drag, but knowing Le Moyne's real history can be exciting ... And there is only one place to discover it – at your wide awake, alert College archives!

# LE MOYNE

SPIRIT. INQUIRY. LEADERSHIP. JESUIT.

WWW.LEMOYNE.EDU

## Archives - Where History Goes on Record

Send all inquiries and materials to:

William J. Bosch, S.J.

Le Moyne College Archives

1419 Salt Springs Road, Syracuse, NY 13214

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

(315) 445-4732

E-mail: boschwj@lemoyne.edu

Visit the archives on the Web. From the Le Moyne home page, click on: Quick Search-Ouick Link-Archives. From Echo, click on: Campus Links-Archives