The concept of a “Bennie Identity” campaign was mentioned in the regular Student Senate column in *The Record*.

At Wednesday’s senate meeting, Nicole Bauer, public relations representative introduced a campaign entitled “Bennie Identity” that hopes to establish a difference between St. Ben’s and St. John’s and praise what it means to be a Bennie. As a part of this campaign, the senate will be issuing bi-weekly videos of current Bennies who talk about their love of the school, why they chose it and their beliefs on the Bennie Identity.
Bennie identity is unnecessary due to institutional history

"SJU saved the CSB bacon....CSB wouldn’t have an ‘identity’ nor an ‘existence’ if it weren’t for the SJU parachute of yesteryear.”

Dear Editor,

At the last CSB Senate meeting a campaign was introduced entitled "Bennie Identity"—that hopes to establish a difference between St. Benedict and St. John's and praise what it means to be a Bennie. (The Record, 1-23-15, page 2). I am a 1974 alumnus of CSB who knows our history. CSB would not exist today if it weren’t for SJU. CSB would have closed in the 1960s without SJU. The Bennie "identity" and "total existence" is intertwined with SJU.

The baby-boom generation ended in the 1960s when single-sex colleges were going coed to boost enrollment. SJU had the land for building women's dorms, the faculty and departments but decided against going coed in the 1960s since CSB would have lost its accreditation. It would be the death of CSB. The women would have come to SJU as they did at Harvard in 1796—Radcliffe college.

CSB never had the money to hire all the faculty, fund departments and build needed academic buildings. CSB has all its buildings the last 40 years since it saved money by piggy-backing on SJU.

SJU saved the CSB bacon. When our merger occurred, the SJU English professor of that antiquity, Stephen R. Humphrey remarked, "St. Bennie just won the lottery."

CSB wouldn’t have an ‘identity’ nor an ‘existence’ if it weren’t for the SJU parachute of yesteryear.

Sincerely,
Roger Lindmark
SJU ’74

Photo from http://2-copper-coins.com/2015/01/09/grand-bacon-fire-alarms-living-small-towns/
In the next issue, the responses were fervent and numerous.

OPINION

Bennie identity necessary

By Lauren Schenauer

Last week, Roger Lindmark (’87) expressed his feelings about CSB Senate’s Bennie Identity campaign, implying that CSB would be nothing without Bennie. Lindmark meant it in more ways than one. Bennie is a true saint who inspired generations of Bennies to do their best in their faith and their college careers.

Lindmark established that he is a Bennie who knows the school’s history. He explained how CSB decided against becoming coed in the 1960s so that CSB would not lose its coeducational identity. Lindmark said, “CSB should be proud of its history, not afraid of its past.”

Last week, Lindmark worked together as a team to create this inspiring place that no one can call home. Being part of a team means that each member helps to support others in times of need.

Lauren Schenauer

CSB Junior

CSB and SUU have a unique gift where each contributes to one another’s strengths to make one incredible institution.

We have two schools that work together as a team to create this inspiring place that no one can call home. Being part of a team means that each member helps to support others in times of need.

This is the opinion of Lauren Schenauer, a CSB junior.

2015-02-13, The Record, p.7
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/42711
Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in response to “Bennie identity is unnecessary due to institutional history.” I know many Bennies on campus did not appreciate this letter. Mr. Lindmark states “CSB would not exist today if it weren’t for SJU.” I find this hard to believe. He argues that if SJU were to close today CSB would have to as well.

When I look at the number of all-men’s colleges (four including SJU) compared to all women’s colleges (45 including CSB) I see that all-women’s college seem to be doing better then all-men’s colleges. With these numbers in mind, I wonder how long SJU would last if it did not have the relationship it has with CSB now.

I think the thing we need to remember is that Bennies having pride that is separate from Johnnie pride does not mean we do not also have pride in our partnership. That is the thing, CSB/SJU is a partnership between two organizations that support and respect each other.

Sincerely,
Olivia Irwin
CSB Senior

“We recognize our differences and celebrate our commonalities.”

Sincerely,
Anne Gleich and Matt Rengo
CSB Sophomore and
SJU Sophomore

2015-02-13, The Record, p. 8
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/42712
Reader responses to ‘Bennie Identity’ letter from Feb. 6

Dear Editor,

Over the course of your lives you will, unfortunately, face attempts to have your value and voice taken away from you. Whether it’s because of your sex, your gender, your age, your race, your religious affiliation or a variety of other reasons, there are some who will think they have the right to define you or speak for you.

All too often, these attempts at disenfranchisement are a result of fear and insecurity. Please remember that your value and your identity can only be determined by you. Likewise, as a college community we need to support each other.

our collective identity, our value, and our voice.

This is why the work of the CSB identity campaign is so important. I publicly thank the CSB Senate for their leadership of this effort. Please know that I am proud of you. I am proud of CSB and I wholeheartedly support your campaign to understand and proclaim our voice.

Bennies, we do not stop our progress because others are bound by their fears of our growth. Continue to let your light shine.

Sincerely,
Mary E. Hinson
CSB President

Dear Editor,

The quality of the educational experience at St. John’s University is inextricably tied to our collaborative relationship with the people of St. Benedict. We are proud and lucky to have the finest, Catholic women’s college in the country as our partner. We will continue...

Sincerely,
Michael Hemesath
SJU President
CSB Senate responds to ‘Bennie Identity’ letter

We are proud. We are proud of how much we have grown as an institution and how our equal partnership with St. John’s has flourished over the years.

We acknowledge the support that SJU has given us over the past 100 years. CSB is also proud to support SJU and the equal partnership we have built.

We are hopeful. We are hopeful for the future and excited about where our school is headed. Over the past 100 years, CSB has helped to instill a love of learning and inspire many strong women leaders.

The CSB Senate knows that the women of our institution will showcase why they are proud to attend a successful all-women’s college. CSB students are proud of the equal partnership we share with an all-male university; both working together, set with two separate identities. The relationship that CSB has with SJU is something special that should not be seen as an ownership or a merger.

Stay proud. Stay sincere. Remember your roots, but always keep looking forward to the future.
Upon rhetorically posing the question "Who runs the world?" a wise pop star once told us it was "girls." Unlike this year's Grammy Award voters, none of us will ever doubt Queen Il, but it wasn't until we met Bennies that we realized how true this was.

In all seriousness though, your leadership, intelligence and identity are indispensable to the community.

Because of this, we strongly disagree with Mr. Roger Lindmark's letter to the editor in last week's issue of The Record.

In many ways you run the CSB/SJU campus. In fact, the case could often be made that Johnnies are actually the ones relying on Bennies. For instance, it is well documented that Bennies have a higher GPA before and during college and are more likely to participate and take leadership positions in clubs on campus. (And let's not forget that Gorecki consistently offers bacon during breakfast while the Reef does not. If anyone is saying the other's bacon, it's probably you.)

Through your academic achievement and involvement in the community, you greatly enhance the value of Johnnies' college experience and education. Since the partnership between CSB and SJU began, we have become increasingly interdependent. There are distinct Johnnie and Bennie identities, but there is also a broader CSB/SJU identity. Our identities are malleable and take shape through our experiences, and since Bennies and Johnnies contribute a great deal to each other's college experience, our identities are intertwined.

In short, if you're concerned about your identity and the one of Bennies, you should care about the college experience of Johnnies. In a world where our strong identities are the best we can be, we should do all we can to help each other. Ultimately, the success of Johnnies and Bennies is a matter of the success of both.

7

2015-02-13, The Record, p. 8
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/42712
Photo from http://www.csbsju.edu/sju-student-senate/senate-resources/senate-roster
Tied institutional identities

By Bob Colligan

Much has already been written in response to the Feb. 5 letter to the editor about "Rescue St. John's," including the statement by two presidents. So, it would appear that nothing further needs to be said. However, since the original letter was written by a St. John's alumnus, I think it is important for us to respond to the very pertinent and relevant points made.

It is true that many of the comments that were made in the letter reflect the misperceptions of our alums and, in most cases, certain surely do not represent the views of the St. John's alumni as a whole.

I believe the emphasis that day to be true. From my perspective, and the viewpoint of many if not most of our alumni, the College of St. Benedict is a fall and crucial partner with St. John's University.

The growth of the College of St. Benedict in the 1970s, 80s, 90s, and beyond has been one of the great 20th century success stories of the nation. St. John's has thrived due to its faith, civic, hard work and performance of the Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict as well as the far more religious faculty members, staff, administration, and board that have led the college.

The College of St. Benedict does not and will not continue to work in harmony and in relation with St. John's. Today, St. Benedict stands strong because of academics, athletics, the arts, global education, and more than change.

St. John's and St. Benedict are proud of the work they do, and we are proud of the success we have achieved.

We are not rivals or foes. We are family and we are friends.

This is not unique to St. John's. This is what it means to be a Benedictine. This is a truth that resonates in our hearts. We are St. John's.

We are St. John's. This is not unique to St. John's. This is what it means to be a Benedictine. This is a truth that resonates in our hearts. We are St. John's.
CSB history misunderstood

College is thrilling, expanding, led almost entirely by lay faculty and administration, peopled with a more international and religiously diverse student body offering a quality education in cooperation with SJU.

Mr. Lindmark's account - that SJU earned CSB is at best only partly true. For reasons that have more to do with larger societal factors than with the two colleges, SJU was bigger and richer. These differences and little about the success and accomplishments of CSB change that it had operated in an economy where women earned only a fraction of what men did - still $8.00 to $1.00 in 2015.

Challenging Women Since 1913
The College of Saint Benedict

Annette Atkins

In his letter to the Record, Roger Lindmark revives a perception that many Johannis shared in the 1970s and was still common when I joined the SJU. p.7

For issues that have more to do with larger societal factors than with the two colleges, SJU was bigger and richer....in an economy where women earned only a fraction of what men did – still $8.00 to $1.00 in 2015.
OPINION

Why The Record chose to print ‘Bennie identity’ letter

Dear Editor,

I am the parent of a current CSB student—the Editor-in-Chief of The Record, in the interest of full disclosure. Mr. Lindmark’s letter got me thinking.

About 10 years ago, as young parents of five children, we ran into some money trouble. My mother-in-law gave us enough money to help us. She never told us how to spend it, or how to budget after that. She never asked us to thank her repeatedly. In fact, she never mentioned it again.

It was a gift to people she cared about, and who cared about her—a reciprocal relationship. We took care of our bills, and have never forgotten her gift. A gift that was given with no strings and no expectations. How lucky we are to have her. Imagine if she expected us to be beholden to her for 40-plus years.

Thank you, SJU, for the help when CSB needed it. I think they’ve made you proud.

Sincerely,
Megan Leipholdt
CSB Parent

Unless you’ve been hibernating in your dorm, you’ve probably heard the buzz generated by a letter we recently published in The Record.

In fact, here’s a quick summary. In a letter to the editor from the Feb. 6 edition, SJU alumnus Roger Lindmark expressed his opinion pertaining to the idea of “Bennie Identity,” basically stating that it is unnecessary because CSB would not exist without SJU.

As a staff, we knew this letter was likely to offend some people on this campus. We chose to publish it anyway. Over the past week, people have inquired as to our reasoning.

The following excerpt from our publication’s mission explains why we chose to do so.

“The Record reserves the right to free speech. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the student body, faculty or of the CSB/SJU administration.”

Although we could have refused to print Lindmark’s letter, we chose not to. The purpose of the opinion/editorial section of a newspaper is for those who wish to do so to express their opinions on certain topics. If a letter is vulgar or singles out an individual, it will not be printed. But we do not censor this section based on whether or not the content may be grounds for disagreement.

In choosing to publish Lindmark’s letter, we also had to consider the overall mission of journalism. The Society of Professional Journalists states that their mission is to “promote the flow of information” and “to maintain constant vigilance in protection of the First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and of the press”—both of which this letter did.

In the larger picture, events such as this teach us something valuable about the world. They teach us that while we may not always agree with opinions certain individuals express, we still will be exposed to them. They teach us that taking the higher road is something of value. But most of all, they teach us that as a community, Bennies and Johnnies care about one another and are integrated—a fact we are proud of today.
To Be or Not To Be Charming?—That Is The Question

Beginning with a picnic in the woods, Wednesday, April 22, "Charm Week," sponsored by the Student Council, has been carried on the past week with a varied program each day.

"The well-read woman is the charming woman!" was the theme of the library display, sponsored by the I. R. C. and the Readers' Guild Thursday. Friday the W. A. A. proved by exhibits that "athletics make a woman graceful."

A display of cosmetics by Pandel's of St. Cloud was available to students over the week-end. The Home Ec department gave hints on clothes and manners Monday. Tuesday, Esthetics and Pro and Presumably collaborated in demonstrating correct make-up, speech, and posture.

Conclussion of the "Charm Week" was the candlelight dinner Thursday evening, followed by an hour of music charm on the south loggia. The program included selections by the string quartet, vocal selections by Ina Mae Poulet, Verna Fritzvold, Charlene Gaffney, and Helen Bohig, and numbers by the saxophone trio.

(“Charm Week” culminated in the choice of the “Posture Queen”)
On May 10 We Give Homage To Motherhood
As Woman’s True Vocation

We will wear our red or white carnations proudly on Sunday, May 10. Yes, we will all send our greetings and gifts to our mothers with perhaps a spiritual bouquet as our most precious offering. But how many of us will stop to think of the real meaning of Mother’s Day, hidden as it is behind the layers of anger, commercial advertising? In a grim, war-riddled world where many consider motherhood a fit vocation only for those who fail as career women, how many of us will have the courage to look to motherhood as the fullest development of our physical, emotional, and spiritual powers?

It is only too easy in a war emergency to regard the mother’s position in the home as unnecessary, selfish work compared to the activity of other women who are taking the place of the fighting men in industry. If the law for drafting women is passed, mothers with small children will, of course, be exempt. But the moral and psychological consequences of such a law will undoubtedly make many homes, already fatherless, motherless too. Not that we begrudge the nation the best we have to give, but even in the darkest hours of war motherhood loses none of its essential importance.

It is true woman can adjust herself to carry on many works outside the home. The important duty, however, of training her children, the future citizens of the country, its principles of virtue and democracy takes precedence over all but the most extraordinary emergency measures. After all, a nation will never be stronger than its homes, and the bulwark of a home is the mother; she there maintains a defense line incomparably more important than any material, man-made line of fort.

And so, on May 10, we honor the women throughout the ages who have dedicated their lives to their children and their homes, always content to have their own identity hidden behind the one name “Mother.” And to the host of mothers throughout the world today, who in being true to their splendid vocation are living inspirations to us, we say with genuine fervor, “May God bless you and may He give you the strength to be as true and honorable and fine as you are!”

Mary, the Model of Mothers
25 years later, when some classes are co-ed:

**Johnnies Rate Bennies As Class Stimulants**

By Patty Radloff

How do Bennies rate? Perhaps the question should be—do we rate? Are we, socially and intellectually, able to "hold our own"? These and other questions were asked of several persons from that knowledge-full university across the fields—CSU. The responses given were rather pleasant—or interesting to say the least. With the added opportunities for meeting provided by the closer co-ed, Johnnies seem to be finding that we all aren't the "Searcy County Mother" type.

When asked if he thought the Bennies were "on the ball" intellectually, one sophomore Johnny replied, "Yes, I think they are, like having Bennies in classes. In fact, I would like to see every class eventually become coed. A girl will contribute a new slant or new dimension to a situation which is needed to receive a total view." On the other hand, one Johnny stated that contrary to adding a new dimension, he thought the Bennies were pulling St. John's down intellectually.

A view that comprises the two extremes was received from a teacher from St. John's who teaches speech at CSU when he stated, "I've had Bennies in the same class who did from A to F work. I must say I was pleasantly well, surprised, yes—delighted. It would probably be the better word with my speech class at CSU. I find the class interesting and stimulating. But I've been told that this is not representative of St. Benedict's. I've heard that many teachers at St. John's feel that generally the Bennies lack background on subject matter, they lack interest and lack intellectual curiosity. But I think those three charges could be leveled against the Johnnies too. In fact, you probably have them on every campus."

"Perhaps some of the areas that affect these problems could be those of faculty, academic standard, reason for being in school, and the administration. If you have a faculty who are alive, alert, and vital, this will communicate to the students. Naturally the academic standards of admission will in some measure determine the ability of the people with whom you are dealing."

Another Johnny stated that the Bennies aren't the play girl of the month type. "They're not the example of the goddess of love. If you have a Benny you don't dare mention it, but now most guys will say they're going with a Benny, and you can take it or leave it."

"I think the attitude toward Bennies is changing. We now are more of a face-type thing. Having the Bennies in classes and on campus has really helped. I think it's just what St. John's needed. The Johnnies have to be less gross and more civilized."

Agreeing with him, another Johnny stated that "as times the Johnnies can be almost arrogant—in fact, I think the presence of the Bennies on campus requires the Johnnies to be more on their best behavior. Maybe we can bring some culture and social grace to St. John's after all."

Perhaps now the question is not how do Bennies rate, but how do I rate? Am I aptitude? Do I lack refinement? Maybe we can no longer hide behind the "Benny image" for it seems that we are being judged as individuals. Will we measure up?

*The Torch* Nov. 6, 1967, p.3

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/254
Yup, The Johnnies Really Love Us

By Debby Meicks

KSJU is serving the campuses of St. John's and St. Ben's. KSJU, we love you...or do we?

Tune in sometime and listen to the happy tone. The big "hits" seem to have degenerated to the big "slams." War is raging—raging here in Collegeville and St. Joseph.

The Johnny announcers at KSJU fired a few of their favorite jists at the females in the listening audience. It seems that the Bennies' humor has been mortally wounded. Johnnies have attacked the Bennies in this manner for years. For so long now, it has been quite impersonal.

However, some of the girls felt duty-bound, and they counter-attacked by ferocious telephone calls to the radio station.

Defending the fort, girls? Your tongues make vicious weapons, but weapons don't encourage disarmament.

If the Johnnies truly hated the Bennies, they wouldn't bother with wisecracks.

Try to enjoy the attempted wit. When you take offense at these jokes, you are surrendering yourself unmercifully to an all-out battle.

Perhaps the unsatisfied listener could get a deferment or change allegiance to another station.

Christmas is coming—let there be peace.

Torch Meeting
Dinner in Interim
5:00 P.M. November 7
Be There!
Note: CSB started its own student newspaper, *The Torch*, in fall 1965.
Note: CSB started its own student newspaper, *The Torch*, in fall 1965.
One issue of a joint student newspaper is published in 1968 on the topic of jointness.
the record the torch opinion

MARY KAY VETZ

The College of St. Benedict refers to itself as a Catholic liberal arts college for women (or so the 1963-64 Bulletin indicates on page 3). That is what it says on page three, but what does it say to us? What is a liberal arts college and what is a liberal education?

Woodrow Wilson describes the liberally educated person as one who "acts a little further than the next fellow and is not afraid to combine his ideas to see where they may lead."

A liberal education is the "scientific knowledge gained slowly and patiently by a willing and energetic student." A liberal education broadens a person's mind, thus enlarging his choice and developing the student's capacity to deal with life rationally and with a purpose. A liberal education has been a prized role awakening for many students. I say prized because too many realize too late how limited their knowledge is after graduation. A graduate in biology may know his

well-rounded education in music, literature, and the sciences.

The basic studies course in one of the required courses on campus. It has as a central theme: Man's Search for Meaning. It deals with the fine arts, literature, natural and social sciences, theology and philosophy. This course of study seems to the student's mind and allows her to become a civilized individual—an intellectual.

St. John's University has no such course, nor has it any such requirement.

PAT ELLINGSWORTH

Alumni and alumnae call it a slur on tradition, educational conservatives refer to it as ghastly, and Johnnies term it unmasculine. The it is, of course, co-institutionalism and it seems to be an impending reality for St. Ben's and St. John's. Rather than squabble over the various arguments arising from the idea, I would prefer here to analyze the union from the perspective of its possible effects on the St. John's community in contrast to the present.

Implicit in all arguments on the topic is the feeling that the union between CSB and SJU will be either vitally beneficial or extremely detrimental to the prestige and quality of education at St. John's. A person's perspective in this regard depends primarily on his philosophy of education and of the sanctity of tradition. Recent developments in the social sciences, however, seem to indicate that certain points of view in this context are no longer tenable for the future of education.

The question of importance here, then, is: can St. John's afford to retain its present structure as a men's private college in light of such research?
TOM O'CONNELL

I favor immediate cooperation with the College of St. Benedict. Now, this doesn't mean I support the union of the two schools into one University—that would be a "merger." Nor does it mean that I'm for mixed housing (men and women free to live on either campus)—that would be "coedulation." Perhaps these things will come later. But for the present, I believe that St. John's and St. Ben's should move as quickly as possible to a "coordinate college" relationship. Departments should be unified under one head with duplicate courses (and teachers) eliminated. Administrative functions like those performed by the registrars' and development office should be unified where possible. Admissions policy should be standardized. On the student level, student activities should be planned jointly, and the campus clubs integrated. Perhaps, even the student governments of the two schools should plan an eventual merger. At any rate, regardless of the specifics, the point is this: without going so far as to lose their separate uniqueness as individual institutions, St. John's and St. Ben's should do everything possible to cooperate on all levels.

Why coordinate with St. Ben's? The answers are fairly obvious to anyone who puts aside the common tendency of human beings to react on a gut level ("Bennies are dumb," "Girls pollute the atmosphere," etc.). The first and most important reason for coordination is the simple fact that a more intensive cooperation means more educational opportunities for students at both schools. The elimination of impossible courses and instructors will free funds to invest in other curricular areas now ignored because neither school has the necessary resources to establish them. Anthropology, for example, is one area that is being discussed in this context. In addition, there is the opportunity to beef up and expand the curricular areas now in existence. Departments that are short-handed or generally weak could be bolstered—one move that few would question the desirability of. In short, by pooling resources the two schools can provide better educational opportunities than one.
The second advantage of a coordinate relationship with St. Ben’s—and from a practical standpoint, the one that may prove the most overriding of all—concerns economics. The fact that a coordinate set up means a more efficient use of academic and administrative facilities has already been pointed out. It doesn’t take a business major to figure out that efficiency means saving money. Secondly, coordination may help the University solve one of its most basic problems—how to attract more students. Studies of the senior classes in today’s high schools show that they are less enchanted with the prospects of attending single sex institutions than ever before. Whether or not this indicates that today’s high school senior is a bigger ladies’ man (or vice versa) than his predecessors is open to question. What it does indicate is that it will take increasingly more than a good academic record and a rugged backwoods masculinity to attract him to a given college. The third economic factor involves federal grants. It is a simple fact that government money is easier to come by in coeducational or coordinate institutions.

The third reason for going coordinate is one that should be appreciated by every student of both institutions. There is something inherently unrealistic about education in an isolated single sex institution. Without going into a long sermon on the difficulties of social adjustment in colleges made up of all males or all females, let it merely be pointed out that there are certain fundamental differences in outlook between the two groups that comprise humanity. Since, the “real world” (which, incidentally, college is supposed to be preparing us for) is not a mono-sexual one, it takes only a bit of common sense to realize that associating and working with members of the opposite sex can be an extremely “educational” experience.

1968-03-28, The Torch, p.7
Neither wants hastily to overthrow any aspect of a special identity so carefully wrought since the Benedictines first carved schools out of the Minnesota wilderness so many years ago. Neither wants to compromise on quality, and on both campuses there are diffuse anxieties that some particular excellence on the one campus might be diminished by joining with a program which is perhaps weaker. If there has been an “identity crisis” it has been met by a resolve to preserve the identity, flavor, style and outlook of each campus, even while we go forward with more common efforts. Despite these
Idzerda photo from SBMArchives
By the end of the Coordinator's second year, the thirty-month deadline to realize a possible merger was fast approaching. There was considerable unrest among constituencies of the institutions—trustees, some administrators, and particularly the Presidents about an impending merger. The issue was addressed again and it was agreed that a high degree of coordination was advisable but a merger would destroy the identity of each institution. There was some anxiety about losing that uniqueness which each institution believes is essential to its own identity and purpose. There were equally strong beliefs that coordinate institutions could realize an effective solution toward achieving the goal reiterated so many times over an eight-year period. And so the idea of merger was ruled out and a high degree of coordination between two autonomous institutions was determined as the goal.
The College of Saint Benedict is developing a new general education program to be implemented by Fall 1978. The program seeks to help our students develop into the generally educated, fully functioning person influenced by Christian, Catholic, Benedictine tradition. We see the CSB student developing intellectual, interpersonal and physical-moral competences, with a sense of identity, a clarity of purpose, emotional integrity and spiritual maturity.

Sophomore Ann Coughlin (Appleton, Wisc.) shares a laugh with Signe Chell (Rock Island, Ill.) at the recent Intergenerational January Enrichment Week on campus.
Commentary

Why Johnny Can’t Relate
By Bill Budisin

The first weeks of school are always a hectic time for the student. It usually takes a while for everyone to settle down into the academic routine and, after a month of school, we are all prepared to lead the life of full-time students for the next eight months.

Contrary to popular belief, however, there is more to this life than playing hockey in the halls, reading the Chaplain’s Letter, and going to the La every Thursday night. In the true Benedictine tradition of community spirit, a major portion of the activity on campus involves social intercourse with our neighboring school, the College of St. Benedict. Some students deny that any tension exists between the two schools, while others are well aware of the sensitive situation.

The issue of our social life usually draws some attention when the SJC and SAB get together (that is when the Benjies accuse the Johnnies of being male chauvinists) and occasionally flares up when the lines on ice cream night are exceptionally long (that is when the Johnnies accuse the Benjies of being Johnnies). No matter what impression these two schools have of each other, I am sure that everyone agrees their relationship is getting better. Unfortunately, many reforms still must be made, and it would seem best if this reconstruction could start with the freshmen. There are many misconceptions between campuses which freshmen are forced to figure out for themselves, and they are usually eager to do so.

One of these misconceptions has to do with the brother-sister brother-sister floor parties are usually just that—misconceptions.

I was caught unawares by Nature the other day and had to make a pit stop in one of the freshmen bathrooms. This is an exchange (unequited) that I heard behind two closed shower curtains; the curtains were closed to protect the innocent.

First Freshman: Johnnie, how was the sister-floor party over at St. Ben’s last night?
Second Freshman: Johnnie: They didn’t have enough beer.
First Freshman: No how? (Continued on page 11)

A misguided attempt at respect??

Sociability (cont.)

about munchies?
Second Freshman: Munchies were all right. You should have seen the girls.
First Freshman: Nice babies?
Second Freshman: The RA is okay. One blond was a fox, a delice. It would have been nice to get her drunk and take advantage of her.
First Freshman: Anyone else?
Second Freshman: Naw—the pretty rude.
First Freshman: I heard from some upperclassmen that you just have to put bags over their heads.
Second Freshman: Yeah, but with some of them you’d have to put a bag over your own head, too, in case one of theirs fell off.

They both erupted with uncontrollable laughter. I just flushed and made my exit.

The generalizations in the preceding exchange only hinder an already slow reconciliation process. I would hope that Johnnies have enough class to refrain from such slander in the future, even at the expense of a good laugh.

Unfortunately, this author has not had the opportunity to enveleop her
drop on any freshmen girls’ after-shower conversations. I do not know whether I would be able to hear anything above the hum of hairdryers anyway, but I am sure they would run on somewhat similar lines. Although I have never heard of a Johnnie having “breeder” hips, men of St. John’s have often been under fire for vanity maintaining self-imposed macho images.

“None taken. Besides, just as uncalled-for. A mutual respect between campuses is in order.”

The Record Oct. 6, 1978, p.9 & 11

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/35177
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/35179
The frightening aspect of this article is not the specific examples Budzien uses, for they are not commonplace; but rather, the attitudes behind them, for they are harmful, oppressive, and degrading. More than this, they continue to be generated by peer reinforcement. Before we can attempt to regard Johnnie/Bennie relationships as a whole, we must first confront ourselves with our own personhoods; only then can we look at ourselves in the role of a Johnnie or a Bennie.

In particular, we would like to address the examples Budzien cites. The issue behind the SAB-SEC confrontation was hardly a "social affair," Mr. Budzien. It was our struggle for recognition as equals and was yet another opportunity for the resurfacing of the "self-imposed macho image" of the SEC—and consequently, the degradation of CSB women (i.e., three-piece suits, "a penny for a Bennie," limits on CSB participation, etc.).

The other example of "social intercourse"—ice cream night—reek of yet another stale Johnnie joke, and we seriously question its validity—as if Johnnie perspectives are so narrow as to define a Bennie in terms of what she eats, thus totally disregarding her personhood. Congratulations are also in order to the artist of the accompanying cartoon, who contributed to the overall sick representation of a Bennie.

How can you dare to state, Mr. Budzien, that our relationships are "getting better" when your examples—in fact, the entire article—serve only to alienate us further from one another by promoting myths and lies concerning women?

1978-10-20 The Record p.2
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/35220
Darts to Budzien

The generally subtle insults in your article become blatant at this point when you state that women are here for the sensual pleasure of Johnnies. Your qualification of the quote "despite the fact that this man was stoned when he made the comment," leads us all to believe that one must be stoned to pay a compliment to a Bennie—even one as meaningless as physical beauty. We are as much challenged by the needs of society today as Johnnies are, and we do not see our purpose here as anything other than to meet these contemporary challenges. This in no way means our self-fulfillment comes about through pleasing men, but rather that it is a result of self-actualization as women.

We would like to extend to the Record and its readers a challenge to try again to find a man who can be sensitive to women and yet give a more in-depth, revealing, and accurate account of our co-existence as men and women.

Hoping our challenge is met:
Nance Field
Nancy Bennett
Jane Lenarz

You call for a mutual understanding between the campuses based on respect for each other, but your conception of the role of CSB women as beautifying the campus has nothing to do with respect.

and flew...
Darts to Budzien

To the Editor:
As the Chaplain at CSB, I can only express my dismay at the lack of sensitivity to the rights of women manifested occasionally in the pages of the Record.

If such demeaning and offensive remarks were attributed to any other group of persons from Blacks, to gays, to handicapped, there would be accusations of prejudice and rank discrimination. Perhaps because women— including the students of CSB— have suffered discrimination as second rate human beings for so long and are so taken for granted, it is still acceptable to caricature them as objects and to use gross humor to impune their competence intellectually and otherwise.

I was pleased to read the recent article by Bill Budzien calling for greater cooperation and respect between the two schools, but even that involved an offensive and insulting dialogue (i.e., the old "bags over their head" chatter) as a tantalizing exhibit that only perpetuates the ridicule. And then I turned the page to find a cartoon (the ice cream and Tab routine) that contradicts the very intent of the article and which demonstrates how deep-seated is the disease in academic institutions where it should be least likely to be found.

If women did not have to "over achieve" simply to achieve professional competence, such remarks could remain ignored. If women did not have so much talent and competence that could be used to counteract the many other injustices in the world, then we could move on and address them exclusively. If women did not suffer so much hurt and ignominy, then the jokes could be laughed at.

I may be accused of "female chauvinism" as Chaplain at St. Ben's, but I'm pleased to accept the accusation—and to work closely in ministry with many competent and outstanding women.

But more complaining is necessary. I think it should be possible to convene a group of concerned students from both campuses to address a problem that affects the cooperation of both communities so seriously.

George P. Wertein
Chaplain
Darts to Budzien

To the Editor:

It seems to be part of the Record's editorial policy to include in each issue at least one denigrating comment concerning the students at St. Ben's. Perhaps to say every issue is an exaggeration nevertheless, I am sure that last week's edition made up substantially for any lost print. Bill Budzien's article and the cartoon both left a bad taste in my mouth (as does, believe it or not, the combination of Tab and ice cream).

Bill writes of the misconceptions existing between the campuses "which freshmen are forced to figure out." Apparently, however, no one had ever forced him to figure them out, for he falls victim to a far greater misconception than that to be expected at a brother-sister floor party. Bill seems to feel that women would be complimented by the knowledge that their "element" is a grace to St. John's campus. Women, however, do not enjoy being reduced to such token pieces; and by referring to them in this context, Bill has equated their presence at St. John's to what, for example, the addition of some new shrubbery would be: nice to look at, but quite insignificant.

Carol Reichert

and flew some more
“Identity” as part of the Strategic Plan

Seven issue areas emerged from the earlier staff work and were presented for consideration: enrollment, identity, decision-making, governance, multiculturalism, finances, human resources and excellence.

The board agreed that, because of its centrality and relevance to all of important strategic issues, identity should be addressed first. Achieving an articulated and actional consensus on the nature of the two institutions, both as separate colleges and in their coordinate relationship, is most important for dealing with the full range of identified issues.
With the two schools melding so much, how do you know that Saint Ben’s is still its own institution with its own identity?

“The schools are not ‘melding.’ The two schools are working coordinately. ... The last thing we need is one more coed college. ... We’ve made every effort to provide training to the faculty to understand that we’re serving men and women; we’re not serving ‘people.’ We never talk about commitment to ‘students’ in general, but to men and women students.”
A Young Man’s Song
Submitted by Charles Thornbury, professor of English, and Michael Blecher, professor in the humanities

Editors’ Note: The following address by Charles Thornbury was presented at the SJU Academic Convocation on Sept. 4. The presentation given on the same day by Karen Johnston at the CSB All College Convocation will be published in next week’s Connections. The speakers were asked to address gender issues. Thornbury’s talk focuses on men’s issues, while Johnston’s presentation focuses on women’s concerns.

1996 SJU Convocation

At SJU we pay special attention to the development of young men. We are unique in being one of a few undergraduate colleges that admits only males. We are also unique in our partnership with CSB. We take pride in our common identity, but each college also takes pride in attending equally to the developmental and intellectual needs of young men and young women that often get lost in an exclusively coeducational setting.

In the past 10 years or so, Saint John’s has been sorting out a new identity in relation to Saint Ben’s. In the 1960s, CSB was a college of about 500 students. By 1976 the first-year class was 500 students, about the size of this year’s class. When I was hired in 1977, SJU had nearly 200 more students than CSB (SJU 1,760 and CSB 1,572). While SJU enrollment has remained about the same, CSB now has nearly 300 students more than SJU. This dramatic shift in numbers highlights the changes that have taken place in American society. Large numbers of women play major roles in the workplace, and in doing so they have made the privilege of men’s gender visible. Until we are made aware of our privilege, we believe the present order of things is normal and natural.

Identity issues addressed in public addresses such as Convocation

1996-09-12 Connections p. 2-3
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/2138
Photo from 1986 SJU Alumni Magazine Volume 25 Number 03 Spring
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/5516
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/32045
http://apps.csbsju.edu/csbarchives/TimeLineDetails.aspx?id=671
The Record begins a series of articles on CSB Identity on March 15, 2007

A long, hard look in the mirror

During last year’s “State of the College” address, CSB president MaryAnn Baemminger publicly stated the need for CSB students to be proud of their school. The Record looks at a series of controversial decisions that have followed.
CSB president MaryAnn Baenninger addressed the CSB identity crisis in last May's "State of the College" address.

"I've been talking with [CSB] students," she said. "They tell me that they think of St. John's as their brother, but they think of St. Ben's as their sister."

"We need our students to be proud of St. Ben's," she said.

They're going to address the issue. Baenninger is putting forward a proposal that would require CSB students to live on campus for all four years of their college experience. She has also instructed CSB/SIU student employees at St. Ben's to cease wearing SJU apparel at their on-campus jobs.

In the following weeks, The Record will cover this issue in depth.

In addition to Baenninger's proposals for housing and CSB student employees, we will explore psychological studies by Bacon and by CSB students in conjunction with additional faculty.

From session and images of superiority to the concept of "Blaze" vs. "Bermie," we hope to ignite the discussion on campus and explore what it truly means to be a student at CSB/SIU.

New CSB President
MaryAnn Baenninger outlaws SJU logo wear for CSB student employees at work
President responds to CSB identity crisis

The Record March 22, 2007

Dear Editor,

I thank the Record for focusing on the identity issue. CSB is thriving and we need to spread the word. We have much to be proud of, including our dear Sister Mary John Bamberger, who has been a true advocate for higher education as having one of the country’s fastest growing endowments, national recognition for our BAC, very strong enrollments and rightfully so, a glorious new dining center and two-thirds of our students studying abroad.

And there’s much more. I do need to “set the Record straight” on a few things. The Sacred Heart Chapel pictured in the CSB identity article belongs to the Sisters. They welcome us generously, but it’s not a College building. The four-year residency is a coordinate CSB and SJU discussion and is unrelated to the identity issue. I was interviewed on the residency topic, and I look forward to reading that article. It is correct that I have asked workers in CSB-only areas to wear CSB logo-wear if they wear logowear at all.

The CSB students I’ve spoken with about CSB identity understand why I requested this. I’d be happy to discuss it with anyone who has a concern.

CSB students are the brightest and most accomplished students I’ve encountered in my career. I’m proud to be here among them. I encourage the Record to interview me in person or by phone on the topic of identity. I’ll be more than happy to talk about CSB. It’s my favorite subject.

Mary Ann Borgen
CSB President

CSB Welcome New President Dr. Margretta Borgen

2007-03-22, The Record, p. 8
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33016
Stop the hostility between St. Ben’s and St. John’s

By George Kostantinides

There are no so many places throughout this world where I can imagine war.

Maybe the anger is caused by the media, or partly by circumstances I have gathered. When I think about those places, I have a really difficult time relating Central American among the lines of the Middle East and other such locations known for their strife and divided.

More from the March 22, 2007 issue

Consider alternate ways to build CSB pride

Dear Editor,

In the March 15th edition of the Record, the front page story addressed the “CSB Identity Crisis” and mentioned that one option to fix the problem is to require St. Ben’s students to live on campus all four years. I know that this won’t be happening anytime soon and that it won’t affect me directly, but I really question how this is going to increase "Bennies Pride." There obviously is not enough housing right now. Therefore, they will have to build more upperclassmen housing.

Consider alternate ways to build CSB pride.

Where will they put this? How will they pay for this? Since St. Ben’s currently does not get the same amount in alumni donations as St. John’s, tuition would be increased. On top of that, the requirement of living on campus all four years rather than just the option for prospective students away from the college. If enrollment declines, tuition would likely go up again.

To me, it seems like it’s just another way to get more money from students that are already paying a lot to go to this school. If we really want to increase the pride of the students at St. Ben’s, there are other things that could be improved first. Although we have the No. 2 study abroad program in the country, a number of high-quality students don’t get into their first choice program this year.

Angela Schmidt
CSB Sophomore

2007-03-22, The Record, p. 8
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33016
THE CSB IDENTITY CRISIS

What not to wear

The Record March 29, 2007

In part three of the four-part series, "CSB Identity Crisis," The Record examines CSB's motives behind the new workplace apparel preferences.

By John Naethe

On March 8, an O'Connell's student manager, Stacy Holman, received an email from McGroten's human resources, Jeff Benbiet, stating that all CSB employees were asked not to wear CSB apparel to work until further notice. There was a lot of confusion over the issue. "It's against our policy," said Benbiet. The change in dress code was suggested by CSB president, MaryAnn Baringer.

Behind the scenes

Holman was disappointed by the change. "O'Connell's was started by students," Holman said. "Students should be able to have this new code implemented without any student input being forgotten." Holman felt that he was not the change itself that bothered him, but rather the manner in which it was communicated.

Disappointment from the older students

"We were really excited to start serving alcohol and hire a new staff on our own, and now we are told that we can only hire six new employees and that we can only serve alcohol on designated nights," Holman said. "We got the idea from her that she didn't have any input. Baringer never came into the room."

See IDENTITY Page 6

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33072
2007-03-29, The Record, p. 1
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33077
2007-03-29, The Record, p. 6
Examining the great divide

In March, the CSB Identity Crisis was introduced to the front page. In the final installment of this four-part series, The Record gets feedback from administrators on the report by Pam Bacon that started it all.

Questions like “should I wear an SUU mascot?” and “why don’t we have CSB/ SUU on our diplomas?” have been discussed by student-faculty discussion groups at CSB/SUU for years, said Sue Eilkins, vice president of Student Development at SUU. After 15 years of working at CSB/SUU, Eilkins believes that gender difference and inequality has always been an issue, because it fits the bigger issue of living in a gendered society.

A recent study by associate professor of psychology Pam Bacon titled “Male and Female Students’ Identification with the College of St. Benedict” found that women equally identify with both schools much more often than men do. The study showed that almost 30 percent of the men sampled identified themselves as completely “Johnnies,” none identified as more “Bombers” than “Johnnies.”
IDENTITY

“These findings are a result of a society that accepts and encourages the growth and expansion of women’s roles on society, but does not do the same for men,” CSB Dean of Students Joely Terhaar said. "Men still seem fearful of being emasculated if they take on or accept that which is perceived as feminine.”

As a result, she said, it is much easier and acceptable for women to identify with SJU than it is for men to identify with CSB.

Separate institutions

Why are gender difference and inequality making such a splash on these campuses as opposed to others?

According to Bacon, the unique history and nature of CSB and SJU, which developed as separate institutions.

CSB was and still is structured to enhance the female undergraduate experience, while SJU does the same for men.

According to Kellom, upon the institutions’ combining, the differences and inequalities that exist between men and women became very apparent, especially for women.

“Gender is often invisible to men, but women are reminded every day of their gender,” he said.

A similar sentiment is echoed by Terhaar.

“Women are socialized to be attentive to relationships (between men and women),” Terhaar said. “Men have the privilege of not having to think about them.”

The “S” word

According to Bacon, sexism plays a major role in the division between the campuses.

“Those participants who held more sexist beliefs were more likely to identify themselves as completely a Johnnie and not identify with CSB,” she wrote.

Kellom agrees.

“Many men view their perspective as universal, but this is false,” he said.

Kellom says that the sense of a hierarchical relationship where SJU is the “big brother” and CSB is the “little sister” has become comfortable and acceptable for many, especially for men.

Terhaar says that CSB is being subconsciously put down.

“For some, CSB asserting itself as an equal partner is perceived as threatening because they fear that this means St. John’s will lose something,” she said.

Bacon believes that this can change, and her study offers a solution.

“By increasing CSB’s reputation in a spirit of cooperation with SJU rather than competition, (both) our students and institutions will benefit,” she wrote. “In all the discussions and study about this subject it is important that the traditions and uniqueness of the two institutions is both preserved and appreciated, using our own Benedictine values as our guide.”
CSB ‘Identity Crisis’ misrepresents the CSB/SJU community

By Judy Terhaar

It is inaccurate to dismiss the work that President Manning and others are doing to strengthen St. John’s identity and build institutional pride on a crisis. The success and achievements of St. John’s should be a point of pride for the university. The university must be the same in all areas and should be excelled by the students.

I am concerned that the word “identity” has a negative meaning and connotations. It is incorrect to dismiss the work that President Manning and others are doing to strengthen St. John’s identity and build institutional pride on a crisis. The success and achievements of St. John’s should be a point of pride for the university. The university must be the same in all areas and should be excelled by the students.

This approach implies that St. John’s is somehow threatened, offensived or “lost” if St. John’s identity and pride are a unique concept. Likewise, there needs to be a perception that St. John’s is not strong and clear in its purpose and there is no identity that is built on student feedback and is indicative of a commitment to meeting the needs of our students.

O’Connor will be open on Friday and Saturday, giving students another chance to be heard and move on from the current issue. The headlines “O’Connor controversy” is not only misleading, given the context of the article, but positioned the two schools as an “us vs. them” relationship.

Another example in the March 19 Record was the article about the changes that will be taking place in O’Connor. These changes are being made based on student feedback and are indicative of a commitment to meeting the needs of our students.

O’Connor will be open on Friday and Saturday, giving students another chance to be heard and move on from the current issue. The headlines “O’Connor controversy” is not only misleading, given the context of the article, but positioned the two schools as an “us vs. them” relationship.

The Record April 19, 2007

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/32873
Real Talk gathering in 2015

- The Lindmark letter backfired!
- There are three communities with “identities” – CSB’s, SJU’s, and CSB/SJU
- Bennies are more than “Ugg boots, buns, ice cream and yoga pants”

- Students encouraged to figure it out for themselves
- Understandably, the administration needs to be careful, and not offend alums
- Try to change the culture through FY Orientation

The Record October 6, 1978

Cartoon 1978-10-06, The Record, p. 12
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/35180
1968-69 combined CSB/SJU Catalog cover
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/14749
Chronology: “Bennie Identity” dates (of flare-ups?):

2015 Lindmark Letter & backlash
1942 “Charm Week”
1942 Homage to Motherhood
1967 Bennie Slams & backlash
1968 Union? O’Connell
1969 Stan Idzerda’s article & enrollment increase
1971 Firmin’s piece on Interinstitutional Cooperation
1978 Budzien/Johnny Can’t Relate & backlash
1994 Colman/Strategic Plan: Identity = Priority #1
1996 Thornbury’s remarks at Convocation
2004 Women’s Center is established
2007 “Identity Crisis”/Baenninger
2015 Lindmark Letter/Real Talk