St. John’s 75 Years Ago:
Admission and other Tidbits of Campus History

Enrollment Going Up

SOCIETY Snow Queen

Immediately following the registration day the slamming of the summer year at St. John’s brought outstanding new faces in the roll, especially in the Socratic and the blazer departments. The snow queen was voted and the registration, which had been postponed, was held. The number of new names had increased, as Van Seters, Scofield, and other engagements, were being kept. The spirit at the assembly was very high, with the sagloid in full swing. Queen McColl was crowned from a group of candidates who were nominated in the Phi Mu and Phi Delta Kappa societies. The ceremony was held in the chapel, and the queen was chosen in a secret ballot.

Image from the 1936 Sagatagan “Sagloid,” p. 1
Student Register Shows 12 States, 2 British Colonies

On making a survey of some of the facts and figures in the files of the Registrar, some very interesting bits of information were brought to light. To date there are 331 college students, slightly less than were registered at this time a year ago. Of these 331 students, 129 are Freshmen, 87 are Sophomores, 68 are Juniors, 45 are Seniors, and 2 are special students. The Junior and Senior classes include those in the seminary and in the clericate. It was revealed that approximately 56 percent of last year’s students returned to their alma mater this year.

Twelve states, Canada, and the Bahama Islands are represented at St. John’s. The two Bahama representatives are receiving their education in the college preparatory department. The numbers representing different states are as follows: Minnesota 234, North Dakota 35, South Dakota 13, Wisconsin 15, Montana 4, Illinois 3, Iowa 5, California 1, Colorado 2, Washington 2, Massachusetts 1, New York 1, Michigan 1. Canada is represented by 6 students. A glance at the above list will show that although St. John’s is not represented equally well in all the states its students come from both coasts and from nearly the northern and southern extremities of our country.

Retention: 56%
THE RECORD AND YOU

We take pleasure in welcoming both the old and the new students who have chosen St. John’s University as the institution in which to continue their education. A campus located in a spot of natural beauty and removed from the city’s industrial buzzing and rustling; a creditable faculty, the members of which have dedicated their lives to the Catholic education of young men; a remarkably fine library whose contents should more than compensate for the loss of the “bright lights”; and the rich heritage of the Benedictine Order, still alert and flourishing after fifteen hundred years—these are a few of the advantages that are yours and which will make your year interesting and profitable in a way that dollars and cents cannot measure.
A WORD FOR THE FRESHMEN

You are now college freshmen, and as such you will begin making new acquaintances and new friends, you will see new things, and experience many new sensations. As freshmen you need advice as to what is to be expected of you and what you might expect of college.
You may have heard a great deal about the horrors of initiation, but at St. John’s there is very little of the hazing that so often terrifies the freshmen. A good sense of humor will enable you to survive with but a slight loss of dignity. However, during the first few months of the school year you may find it expedient to bear the slight tasks that upperclassmen may impose upon you and to obey the few rules they may announce to be followed.
In college you should try to learn your limitations, your capacities, and your possibilities. Your talents should be developed, your limitations in so far as possible eliminated, and your capacities extended. If you do all of that, your degree will mean something more than a certain number of courses passed. If you have accomplished all this, your degree will be at least to your own mind *summa cum laude.*
Most important of all, you should not expect too much of college. No longer will it enable you to step into a high salaried position. But it will have been worth all its expense, all its toil, all its trials and tribulations, if it teaches you to know yourself. Too many students spend so much time in the various distractions offered by college life that they have no time to make the acquaintance of that most important of all personages, themselves.
You are now a member of a Benedictine college with all its tradition of community life and a brotherhood of prayer. While you are here, you will have greater religious opportunities than will ever again be offered you in this life. Take advantage of them, join wholeheartedly in our common life. Remember always that to be a "Johnnie" means something more than mere attendance here at St. John’s.
COLLEGE DEAN SPEAKS TO STUDENT BODY

On Friday, September 11, Father Virgil addressed the student body of the college in a general convocation. Father Virgil outlined traditions and customs in general for the incoming students; he also stressed the importance of good conduct and discipline. Foremost in his talk was the necessity of religion in the student’s life. Students should attend holy mass at least three times a week and if at all possible daily. “We should,” Father Virgil said, “appreciate the opportunity that we have to attend daily mass and receive Holy Communion.”

In regard to Benet hall men, Father Virgil requested that discretion be used by students during the study periods. Radios should be used only at times when they are not annoying to other men and then to some degree of moderation. There should be no unnecessary shouting or any other disturbing noises. During study periods rooms should be a place of privacy; all unnecessary visiting should be eliminated.
Weekly Bulletin

Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m. Auditorium, Freshmen “Success in Study”, by Rev. Arno Gustin, O.S.B., Education Dept.


Sept. 25, High School Football game—St. John’s vs. Tech High, at Collegeville, 8:30 p.m.

Sept. 26, College Football Game—St. John’s vs. Duluth Teachers College at Collegeville, 3:00 p.m.
SCHOOL BEAUTIFIED BY SUMMER REMODELING

Vacation for students last summer meant hard work for the corps of workmen employed at the institution, as evidenced by the number of changes and improvements about the campus. Foremost of these changes was the remodelling done inside the gymnasium. The interior walls have been painted white. The dressing rooms have been enlarged and rebuilt and are now much more convenient with new showers and lockers.
The refectory underwent considerable change with an extension on the north end and with the installation of oak panelling to a height of four feet against the walls. A new terrazzo floor has been run in the day students' dining hall. A number of classrooms and halls in the main building have been redecorated.
Work on the athletic fields, which have undergone considerable improvement in the past two summers, is now nearing completion. A stone retaining wall has been built outside of the running track on the south end of the field to prevent rains from washing down the slope and over the track.
The pioneer days of transportation have passed. No longer are the students at St. John’s subjected to the rigors experienced in former years.
the Deans realized that a softer race has developed and incidentally that the time-honored practice of hitch-hiking should be discouraged. In consequence, arrangements have been made whereby students desiring recreation (with permission, of course) away from the campus on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and evenings can ride to or from St. Cloud or St. Joseph in Al Schwinghammer’s “Blue Lightning Special.”

Last Saturday many Johnnies, remembering past hardships of travel via the “thumbing” route, greeted the announcement of convenient transportation at the cost of only a dime with feelings of unmixed pleasure, and at 1:15 P.M. eagerly mounted the bus. In the face of such instantaneous success there can be no doubt that the practice will be continued to the satisfaction of students, faculty, and motorists.
Society Boys who go Joe-wards A.W.O.L. can’t expect to be reported on in the newspaper although they do crash the deanery files. Those who *beverage well*, but not wisely, will also be forced to waste their sweetness on desert air.—Gesundheit.

The Pantry in its solemn quiet makes quite a stamping ground for the far-famed High and Mighty (and exalted) Order of Bachelors, of which Bud Mechler is Honorary second Vice-President—at least until September 14, when St. Ben’s is scheduled to take on a fresh batch of *pulchritude*.

*ST. JOHN'S RECORD*

**CAMPUS "SHOTS"**
You can tell by the twinkle in her eye
...she knows the time of day

The Record
Sept. 17, 1936, p. 8