

THE ROSCREA REVIEW

No. 29

Quarterly of the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union

Winter 1975

Message from the President: Open up the Communication Lines

My year of Presidency has left no doubt in my mind, that to fulfil our role as a past students union, the communication lines must not alone be opened up but must be kept open. The Central Committee are as it were, the hub of the wheel monitoring and co-ordinating the views, desires, and wishes of the members of the past students' union. The Central Committee cannot work effectively unless it has the views of a broad spectrum of the past students. For this reason we have nine branches of the union—so please do your part by attending your branch A.G.M. In all cases, however, this was not possible in the past year, as we had four branches out of nine completely dormant as far as branch activities are concerned. I make a personal appeal to members of these branches to re-activate yourselves in the coming year. Two branches in the past year successfully combined their A.G.M. with a social function—maybe not the ideal solution

but at least it is keeping the communication lines open.

The Monks, the lay teachers and the students all participated at union activities during the past year. To all concerned I say a very sincere thank you and I look forward to even further involvement in the coming year. In this way a policy that has the backing of all the members in the union can be produced. Our priorities and objectives can be established, knowing that they had the backing of the vast majority of past students and as a result implementation would be assured.

With the help of my Central Committee and our President elect, Ignatius Houlihan, I look forward to my second year of office with confidence. I hope by giving our time and energy to union activities we can repay a little of the debt that all Roscrea past men owe to the Alma Mater.

Conor O'Flynn

A School Library

AUGUSTINE T. MARTIN

Among the many improvements which have been brought about in Roscrea over the last ten years the provision of a school library has been perhaps the most important. Many of us remember that the only library service available was a brief distribution of books at the end of study three times a week amounting to a few hours recreational reading. In all honesty it did not amount to a great educational facility.

Now the old Oratory has been adapted to provide the nucleus of a genuine academic library. It is a place where students can not only sit down and read, but can also engage in genuine research. There they can learn how to handle a library catalogue, choose books which will help them with whatever project or line of study that may be currently interesting them, and thus use their initiative in expanding their knowledge.

It is a sad fact that many educated Irish people are at a loss when they enter a large academic library. They cannot find what they want because they don't know or realise the purpose of the various catalogues and indexes provided for their guidance. Because they have been confined to a narrow body of textbooks they do not realise how knowledge can be deepened and augmented by the reading of allied publications in their field of study. It is not infrequent to find students entering university who do not even know how best to use the indexes and tables of contents in a large textbook.

For this and for many other reasons the new library at Roscrea is of vital importance. Here the students

can browse among the books which are now available on open access and gradually familiarise themselves with the procedures of library study. They can learn to master the tools of their trade under the guidance of a professional librarian.

One important ingredient is still lacking: books. There is already a good core of books there, but it is far from adequate. The library needs a yearly input of literary, historical, geographical, sociological, political, religious and scientific books and journals. With the many demands on its finances the College cannot reasonably be asked to meet this demand. Past students can help in two possible ways: they might raise a modest fund by yearly subscriptions to build up the book supply; or they might contribute books and journals from their own libraries.

For the moment we propose to appeal only for books. Already past students have contributed books and magazines. Many of these publications like Dail and Seanad debates, journals of various government, semi-state and private businesses, come free to past students working in these areas. All are welcome, and if the response is generous it may not be necessary to seek direct subscriptions. Therefore in the coming year we appeal to all past students who think the enterprise worthy, and who have books or journals which they would like to donate to help to build up the resources of the library. No more positive and fruitful investment could be made in the development of Cistercian College Roscrea as a centre of learning. The Librarian, Rev. Fr. John, O.C.S.O., will be happy to acknowledge all contributions.

The General Secretary's Report to the Annual General Meeting

The report to the 45th Annual General Meeting of the Cistercian College Roscrea Union, 25th October 1975.

I take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Ignatius Houlihan on to the Central Committee where he does his year's noviciate as President Elect under Abbot Conor O'Flynn, in preparation for taking up office in 1976, le coghnamh Dé.

Since our last report the number of our registered members has increased substantially and it now stands at 1,370. This includes some overseas members in Great Britain, the U.S.A., Canada and Australia. The sudden jump in numbers is due to the decision of the Central Committee to incorporate all past pupils who subscribed to the building of the swimming pool.

Of the senior students who left the College in June 1975, 54 have joined the Union.

During the year an appeal was made in the Review for an enlargement and renewal of subscriptions. The response was prompt and generous, and on behalf of the Central Committee I wish to thank you for your co-operation. However, I must apologise for not printing an autumn issue of the Review, but as I pointed out in our last circular letter, it was lack of material not money that forced this decision.

Two notable events took place in Union affairs this year. One was the organisation and meeting of the "Think Tank". On the 8th of March, the President, Mr. Conor O'Flynn, presided at a meeting of professional and business men who pooled their ideas and discussed ways and means in which they could make available the fruits of their expertise for the benefit of the senior boys leaving the College. The panel consisted of Dr. Tom Ambrose, Mr. Pat O'Shea, Dr. Bernard Sherry, Mr. Michael Madden, Mr. Paddy McMahon, Mr. Frank Lynch, Mr. Jim Fehily, Very Rev. Fr. Peter, Fr. Anthony, Mr. Sean Cunningham (the Career Guidance Counsellor to the College), the house captains for the year and Fr. Dermot. The discussions lasted late into the night and continued the following morning. Perhaps it is early to assess the full fruits of this project. To date a number of questionnaires have been filled out by past men from various professional and business groups throughout the country and we hope to collate all this information and make it available to the senior students in the College library.

The other event is the establishment of a new branch of the Union for the South East of the country. The focal point being Kilkenny, it includes Carlow and Wexford. This branch has been organised at the expense of South Tipperary and Dublin but it forms a more natural grouping

for better organisation and we look to a successful future for the members in this area. The success of their social function last March in Kilkenny augers well for the future.

The Central Committee Meetings held during the year were well attended by representatives from the various branches, but there has been a notable falling away of interest and regular attendance by Limerick, Galway and dare I say South Tipperary.

I am glad to say that we have nearly completed the payments of our various bills arising from the swimming pool. Great credit is due to Mr. Gerard Bates and the members of his sub-committee.

In relation to these meetings I would like to put on record our thanks to the good sisters in the College who cater for the members so well when they come along.

There is one point to which I would like to draw your attention, Gentlemen. We have organised a study group during the year whereby we can help senior students leaving the College. Most of these students will take their third level education in either Dublin, Cork or Galway. I think it is most important that there should be a viable branch of the Union in each of these centers and that the main thrust of the activities of these branches should be aimed at the various student bodies in these centres. Dublin is already well organised, it remains for the other two branches to organise themselves to do something about this question.

Another area to which my attention has been drawn by questions and letters from young past men is London. Each year I receive at least half a dozen enquiries about the London branch of the Roscrea Union asking whom they can contact, where they can meet and what possibilities there are of attending gatherings of past students. I am afraid that for some time I have been unable to help these men. Could anything be done to revitalize the London branch?

I am sometimes asked by new members and new officers on the Central Committee what are the sources of our income. We are completely dependant on the membership fees to pay our way. The Review pays for itself generally speaking but we are not subsidised by the College or the Monastery, we have never been left a legacy and to the best of my knowledge none of our prize bonds have yet been drawn, but we can always live in hopes!

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I thank you for your co-operation and forbearance towards me during the year and if I have fallen short of what might be expected I plead your forgiveness.

Thank you.

UNION DINNER 1975

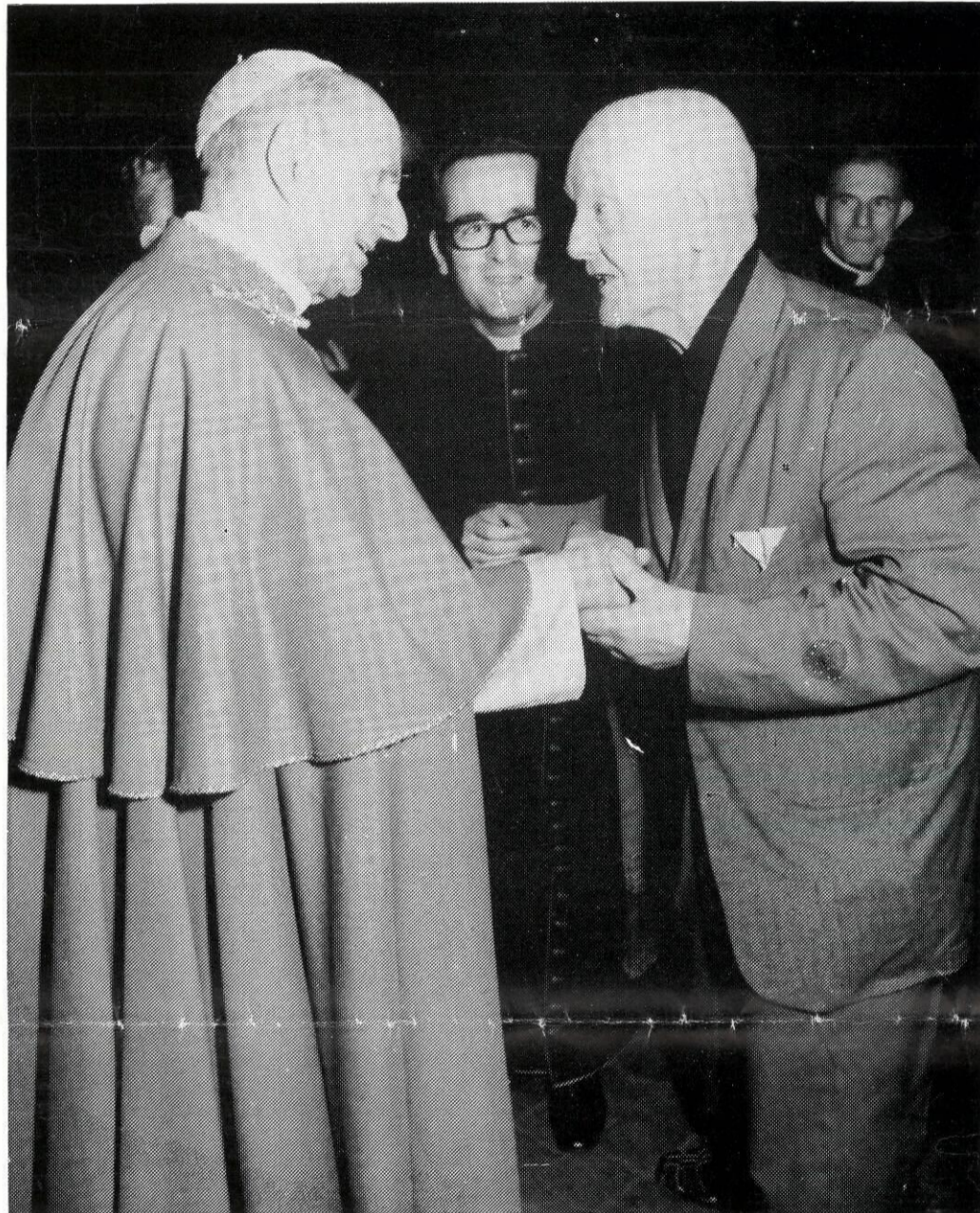
It was the largest gathering of past students at a Union Dinner for some years. One hundred and forty sat down together in the College Refectory shortly after 8 o'clock. The gathering covered many generations of students from 1915 to 1975. Commdt. Michael Cummins who left the College in 1915 was the doyen of the gathering. This was mentioned by the Lord Abbot in his after dinner speech, and it drew an enthusiastic cheer from all present.

The catering for the meal was provided by the College Sisters and their kitchen staff, and the quality of the fare served equalled any first class hotel. Bro. Nivard, ably assisted by Mrs. Maher of Annegrove and Mrs. Sheila O'Brien of Birr who are always on hand when the monks want help.

The menu devised by Sr. Anthony was as follows:

Grapefruit Cocktail
Cream of Mushroom Soup
Smoked Salmon &
Roscrea Brown Bread
Roast Beef & Yorkshire
Pudding
Braised Celery & Glazed Carrots
Roast & Creamed Potatoes
Sherry Trifle & Cream
Apple Pie & Vanilla Sauce
Cheese & Savouries
Coffee & Biscuits
Fresh Fruit
Red & White Wine and
Orange drink

After the coffee was served, toasts were drunk to Our Holy Father the Pope and to Ireland. The President of the Union then proposed a toast to the Community and the College. In his reply to this toast the Lord Abbot—himself a past student of the 1940s vintage—welcomed all back to C.C.R. He said he was particularly pleased to see such a representative cross-section of so many generations of past men. He assured them of the special interest the Community had in their welfare. The Swimming Pool, which the Union had provided for the College, was a tangible example of the loyalty and generosity of the past men and a gift for which we and many future generations of students were very grateful. He wished to thank particularly those Presidents of the Union during whose term of office this work was inaugurated and carried out—Gerard Houlihan, Gerard Bates and Tom Haugh. A statement which was greeted with loud applause. He also stressed the fact that the future of the College as they knew it would be maintained. There were healthy signs of improvement in the vocation trend in the monastery and that guaranteed the security of the College. More applause. "And so", he concluded, "It is my pleasure to propose a toast to the Union; to its success and continued growth."



When Pope Paul—then Monsignor Montini—visited C.C.R. in 1951 Michael Mackey mended his shoes. Michael has been the monastery shoemaker for 62 years. This year he made a pilgrimage to Rome and had a private audience with the Pope.

The President of the Union, Conor O'Flynn of Newmarket, in reply to the toast to the Union, thanked the Father Abbot on behalf of the members of the Union for being with them this evening. In his dual role as Patron of the Union and a past student of the College his presence gave them all great joy. The President continued: "I remember my first few days in the College over thirty years ago, I was allotted a place on the kids table in the ref. There was a senior boy at the head of this table. In my innocence I could not understand the first day why there was such a rush to sit next to or near the head of the table. I learned quickly. I also learned that boys on the table could be divided into three groups—the quick, the strong and the starving. I was in the latter group. Lucky for us among the 'starving', we had at the head of our table one who in his own time quietly but firmly dealt with the situation. As a result, thank God, I survived and I lived to have the pleasure to sit once again with the same head of the table—now Father Abbot, you will be with us as head of our table for many years to come."

"On behalf of the Union, I want to thank you and the Community for putting the College at our disposal for this week-end, and also for always making us so welcome when we come back to Roscrea for Union functions."

"This evening we have been wined and dined in a fashion that would do justice to any first class hotel—for this we must thank the good Sisters and staff who must have worked hard to produce this meal—to the Sisters and staff on behalf of the Central Committee and on my own behalf we thank you not alone for your efforts this evening but also for the many lunches and teas you provided for us when we came back to Central Committee Meetings during the past year."

The President concluded by asking those present to send in material for the *Roscrea Review*, and support the College teams when they played their cup matches in Dublin. "I hope", he said, "that you enjoy yourselves for the rest of the evening and also tomorrow. My final wish is, that we will all be back again next year—and more of us of course—to enjoy the friendship and hospitality of Father Abbot and his Community."

UNION MASS

The annual Union Mass for living and dead past students of the College was celebrated on Sunday 26th October at 12 noon. The concelebrants of the Mass were Dom Colmille O'Toole the Lord Abbot, Fr. Peter, Fr. Kevin and Fr. Dermot.

The lessons were read by Conor O'Flynn and Gerard Bates, and the homily was given by the Lord Abbot.

The following were on the Altar

List of the Dead:

James McGartoll	1933
Martin Llewellyn	1957
Ben Garvey	1930
David Butler	1937
Fr. Nicholas Coady	1910
Mgsr. Jerome O'Rourke	1920
Dan Burke	1922
John O'Brien	1935
Dr. Denis Finn	1924
Dr. Brendan Bernie	1927
Andy Carter	1918
Val Condon	1940
Cyrl Tynan	1948
Thomas F. Rowley	1912
Desmond Reynolds	1948

May these, and our many other colleagues whose names are known to God alone, rest in peace.

Swimming Pool Finances

TOTAL COST

The total cost of the Pool has been reckoned at £62,807.85. This figure includes administrative expenses, professional fees and the draining of the site prior to commencement of building.

PAYMENT

The cost—£62,807.85—has been paid in full. In making this payment interest free loans totalling £27,100 given by Past Students were utilized. These loans plus the income from Covenants, Bankers Orders, donations etc. enabled us to meet the final figure with a little to spare.

RE-PAYMENT OF LOANS

Repayment of loans to past students has commenced and a sum of £7,000 has already been paid back. This leaves a figure of £20,100 still to be met. It is estimated that the income expected from covenants, Bankers Orders etc. still to come, will suffice or nearly suffice to defray this debt within a maximum period of about three years. Repayments will generally be made in the same order of date as the giving of the loans.

FUND TO REMAIN OPEN

The fund will remain open for contributions until such time as it becomes clear without any element of doubt that all loans can be repaid.

GERARD BATES,
Chairman,

Swimming Pool Sub-Committee.

Subscribers to the Review

(Published by way of receipt and acknowledgement.)

In the last issue of the Review we made a special appeal for some extra financial help to meet rising costs of production and postage. There was a magnificent response and below we list those who are known to us. These sent their subscriptions to the Editor directly. But there are others who placed their Standing Order directly with their Banks. These too we wish to thank.

Jack Philbin, Dublin.
Tom Maher, Tullamore.
Shaun Wrafter, Tullamore.
Denis Crowley, Dublin.
Noel Windle, Dublin.
Dr. Bernard Sherry, Dublin.
Tom Haugh, Athlone.
Pat Keane, Trim.
Fergal Keane, Dublin.
Rev. Fintan Keegan, U.S.A.
V. Rev. Canon O'Grady, Hospital.
Joseph Doherty, Dublin.
Michael Madden, Roscrea.
Comdt. Michael Cummins, Dublin.
Richard Liffey, Shinrone.
Pat O'Shea, Ballyragget.
Tom Ambrose, Dublin.
Rev. T. J. Hogan, Lisvernane.
Gerard Bates, Dublin.
Tim Maher, Roscrea.
Paddy McMahon, Dublin.
Eamon Ryan, Lanesboro.
Simon Coyle, Dublin.
Frank Cullen, Ashford.
John F. Walsh, Dublin.
Arthur Joyce, Birr.
Jim Glennon, Skerries.

Conor Guiney, Dublin.
Daniel McInerney, Carrickmines.
V. Rev. T. Bowden, Clogh.
Noel Kilmartin, Ballinasloe.
Col. Peter Power, York, England.
William Nolan, Kilkenny.
Michael Connellan, Longford.
V. Rev. D. O'Carroll, U.S.A.
Conor Kelly, Enniscorthy.
Harry Hall, Dublin.
Michael Hanly, Dublin.
Rev. Denis Foley, New Inn.
John O'Shea, Croydon, England.
Christy Carroll, Dublin.
Cyril Hackett, Tullamore.
Dr. R. Dwyer, Toomevara.
Dr. P. Cosgrave, Borris in Ossory.

Some Items from the Rugby World

Bill Shaw and Bill McGrath have been picked for the Leinster Inter Provincial Schoolboys team. The former is the son of Denis (1946).

Joe Chambers is Captain of the U.C.D. Freshers.
Peter Lynch is Captain of Wanders Under 19.

Liam Spooner is Captain of the Roscrea Rugby Club.

Sean Loughnane is Captain of the Birr Rugby Club.

Jim Ryan, Peter Collier, and Liam Spooner are on the Leinster Junior Inter Provincial team.

Donal Spring has been named Rugby Sports Star 1975 for Kerry. His brother, Richard, is playing for London-Irish, and he has been called to the Bar.

An Appeal for Ten Volunteers

Are there among our numbers ten just men who are willing to give one hour of their time for one evening of the month to keeping vigil before the Blessed Sacrament? For almost seventeen years our men have been keeping watch on behalf of the rest of us, on the first Monday of every month from 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. The roster arranges for three groups of two each to do one hour. Just one hour out of the seven hundred and twenty hours in the month! To quote one member of the "Old Guard" to whom we spoke, "It is time now to strengthen our ranks with new blood, before too many of us pass on. We need new hearts and new hands to be raised in prayer". All we need are ten just men, who will be mindful of the words of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane "Could you not watch one hour"?

If you can help please write to the General Secretary of the Union at Cistercian College, Roscrea. Or contact Aidan J. Mottley, 4 Landscape Gardens, Dublin 14 (982553), who arranges the monthly roster.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE

RESULTS 1975

There were fifty six students presented for the examination. All passed and 43 got two or more honours. Of these 42 met the minimum requirement for the University.

NEWS OF PAST MEN

Joe Hayes (1967), formerly of Cassstown House, Thurles, was married to Dierdre Hickey of London on October 4th at University Church, St. Stephens Green. Joe is in the Diplomatic Service and is at present stationed with the Irish Embassy in West Germany.

John Harnett (1956) now lives in London near Wimbledon Common, where his four children spend much of their time looking for Wombles. His wife is from Northern Ireland. John went to U.C.D. from Roscrea and qualified in Chemical Engineering. His work with the International Engineering Company has brought him to many parts of western Europe. He also spent over a year in the Ural area of Russia. He looks forward to a revival of the social gatherings of past men in London.

Bonny Crosbie (1965) was Captain of the House. He studied engineering in U.C.G. He was married in May of this year in Westland Row Church, Dublin, to a Belgian girl.

Robert Miller (1950) of Vicarstown, Portlaoise, was married to Margaret Carroll of Stradbally in Rome last April. Robert is farming his home place.

Philip Sheedy (1965) of Dunkerrin, Hon. Treasurer of the North Tipperary Branch, was married recently to Agnes Doherty. Philip is a Surveyor and works in Limerick.

Patrick Kennedy (1965) of Roscrea is still in C.C.R.! But now he is on the College Staff in the Administration Department. He married this

summer to Anne Byrne at St. John's Church, Rath, Co. Offaly.

Chris Bardon (1966) of Abbeyleix also married last summer. He is an accountant in Portlaoise.

Eugene Garvey (1969) of Birr qualified as an architect this year.

Eddie Comber (1971) of Lahinch who switched from architecture to medicine in U.C.D. got honours in his 2nd medical this year.

Other men of the same vintage: **Don Brennan** and **Paul McGovern** are in 3rd Med., U.C.D.

Michael Breen has graduated with honours in engineering and he is doing post graduate studies; **Brian O'Sullivan** graduated in law 1974; **Tom Gunning** is with Bowmakers, the Bankers; **Kevin O'Flanagan** is doing economics and got a Trinity scholarship in 1973; **Michael O'Loughlin** is also doing economics in Trinity. He is married.

Richard Ryan (1972), Borris, Co. Carlow, received his Commission in the Army last summer.

Paddy Ball (1946) is a National Teacher in Louisburgh, Co. Mayo. He is married with five children.

Michael Joe McGreal (1965) was recently in the news as the Fianna Fail candidate in the Mayo by-election. He is in business in Balla, married with two children. His brother, Ned, is a cattle dealer in Castlebar.

Vincent McIntyre (1965) of Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath, has been abroad for some time. He is now back in Dublin in the Head Office of the A.C.C.

Dr. Eugene Hardiman (1967), Headford, Co. Galway, is in the General Hospital, Sligo.

Sean Collins (1966), Cork, now in Dublin, is a Medical Technician in the Laboratory of the Meath Hospital.

Dr. Denis McCarthy (1955) formerly of Castlereagh, Co. Roscommon, has achieved a very distinguished career in medicine. He is at present in charge of medical research in the National Health Institute, Bethesda, Washington, U.S.A.

Dr. Colm O'Colmain (1941), Dublin, also lives in Bethesda. He was recently transferred from Trinidad to the Headquarters of the Pan American W.H.O. in Washington.

Dr. Cuimin Doyle (1952), Shinrone, lives in Cork, and lectures in Pathology in U.C.G. He recently gave the opening lecture at a W.H.O. congress in Vienna.

Dr. Hugh Durkin (1966), Granard, Co. Longford, is now a Senior House man in St. Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin.

Dr. Brian Jennings (1965), Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo, is practicing in Canada.

Ronan Burke (1965), Limerick, now lives in Shankill, Co. Dublin, married in August 1974. He is in the Computer Section of the Bank of Ireland.

Denis Dineen (1952), Phibsboro, Dublin. He spent many years in England and has now moved to New York where he is in a Pharmaceutical Laboratory. He is still unmarried and lives at 395 Westchester Ave., Port Chester, New York.

Paddy Maguire (1954), Sligo, qualified as an accountant. He spent some years in England with his wife and family. Returning to Ireland last year he has settled in Trim, Co. Meath. He now has a son in the College.

Jim Glennon (1972), Skerries, one of our keenest players of club rugby. Last summer he was elected Captain of Skerries R.F.C. This is the club's first year in senior football and the Golden Jubilee of its foundation. Jim is in the Royal Branch of the A.I.B.

Noel Diamond (1968), Rathfarnham, Dublin, was married last June at the church in Dublin Airport. The girl is a past pupil of the Sacred Heart Convent and the romance is said to have begun at an interschool "Hop" at C.C.R.

Liam Nicholl (1970), Corriga, Co. Cavan, is doing his H.Dip. and teaching in Kings Hospital.

Aidan Carroll of Roscrea has got his Diploma in Hotel Management.

Dr. Derry Bergin of Nenagh is shortly to marry Miss Carol Fitzgerald.

Charlie Kavanagh of Nenagh was married last August.

Joe Spooner, Roscrea, has got his B.Com. in U.C.G.

Gerard Maher, Roscrea, now a B.A. of Maynooth, is preparing his thesis for the M.A.

Vivian H. Lavan, BCL, Barrister-at-Law, has been called to the English Bar.

Togetherness means EVO-STIK

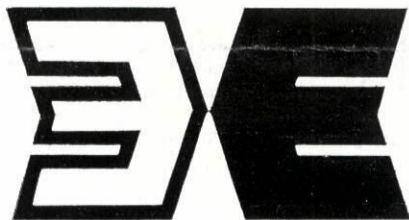


Together they're starting life in a new home.

Wise girl. Just in case he's not as good at home improvements as he is at breaking from a Scrum, she's invested in Power Packed Evo-Stik.

Power Packed Evo-Stik is a tool box in a tin . . . which is one of the things every Bride should know!

Remember . . . Love is never having to say you've forgotten the Evo-Stik!



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DOHERTY

THE "NEW" MAYNOOTH

That a quiet revolution has taken place in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, since 1968 is a fact neither appreciated nor understood by many outside of those directly involved. What had been for over 150 years the sole preserve of male clerical students has, in the course of the past seven years, opened its gate to nuns, members of religious orders and, most importantly, to lay students like myself. That our admittance into Maynooth has had a profound effect on that college's habits and lifestyle is undeniable. The college's square is now peopled by teeming masses of vivacious female students who, after their initial surprise, pay little or no heed to the sedate crowds of priests and clerical students with whom they share the campus facilities and grounds. This surface impression also represents to some degree a much more profound and serious change. This deeper change I shall now examine in greater detail.

When Maynooth first opened for lay students in 1968, a mere 25 availed of the opportunity. Their effect upon the character of the seminary was marginal. At this stage seminarians numbered about 600. Since 1968 a drastic reduction in the number of clerical students has occurred. Now, in 1975, their ranks have dwindled to approximately 280. Conversely the numbers of lay students have increased dramatically. Over 250 are entering the Arts, Science and Philosophy faculties annually. The result of this has been that they now constitute the largest single group. The reason they do not constitute an overall majority is due to the increase in the numbers of non-residential clerics—nuns and members of religious orders like the S.V.D.'s, the S.M.A.'s and the Salesians, etc. I should state at this stage that only diocesan clerical students are allowed to live in the college. Members of religious orders live in their own hostels nearby. These changes have brought about an important shift of emphasis. Since the National University section is the most thriving part, not unnaturally it engages most of the attention of the college officials. I believe the seminary has suffered as a result and inevitably so. The blame is mainly attributable to the Trustees of both the seminary and the national university end—namely the hierarchy. When they took the initial decision to open Maynooth to external religious and lay students, I think it is

fair to say that they had no idea what would ensue. They are now victims of their own lack of planning. The more extreme among their ranks favour the retrogressive step of again closing the college to lay students and returning to a closed seminary. Happily, such a view enjoys minimal support among the Hierarchy. Most of them are happy with the presence of lay students but are, quite naturally, determined to preserve the status and vitality of the seminary. That this is possible I do not doubt. I favour a seminary system that exists side by side with a lay world. They are trained to minister to our needs and how can they be better prepared for this than by living with us, seeing us work, play, listening to our views, sharing our joys and sorrows? We in turn can learn from them and grow to a better comprehension of what motivates and sustains them.

This is not happening to a sufficient degree at present. The reason is, I feel, that many seminarians feel threatened by the ever-increasing presence and power of lay students. This has caused many of them to "close ranks", to become more intransigent and to maintain a distance between themselves and lay students. This can only lead to their eventual destruction. The fault, as I mentioned before—does not lie primarily with them. The decision must be taken soon. I firmly believe that that decision will favour a proper integration of the lay and clerical elements. With such an integration the seminary can once again achieve the status and state of health it deserves.

How did I find the "new" Maynooth? I would be a liar if I said other than that I enjoyed it immensely and intend to return there for further studies. Much of the reason for my enjoyment of three years there lies in Maynooth itself—its situation, its atmosphere and perhaps most importantly, its size. I have lost track of the number of occasions I have been asked the perennial question: "Why did you go to Maynooth in the first place?" Perhaps the best answer lies in an examination of what I see as the distinct advantages that Maynooth possesses.

Maynooth is the only university that has retained the personal contact between student and professor, contact that is basic for the survival of most students. The reason why it has managed to do so is quite simple—it has restricted the numbers in all

faculties and intends to continue to do so. In sharp contrast to the numerical anarchy of U.C.D. for example a mere 250 or so undergraduates enter first arts annually. The number that applies is greatly in excess of this but only a limited number gain admittance. Some may claim that this is elitist and unfair but I disagree. A university is, by definition, an elitist institution and must continue to be so if it is to continue in existence. By restricting numbers to the degree that it does, Maynooth is asserting that it is a small university and that it intends to continue as such. Unless it succumbs to the temptation of drastically increasing numbers—an unlikely possibility—it has the potential of becoming one of the most interesting of the Irish universities. There is now general recognition that U.C.D. represents overcrowding at its worst. Maynooth is the only Irish university with manageable numbers. It can only be to the student's advantage to be more than a faceless number. Another vital factor is that much of the student's work over a three year period is corrected by the professor involved. No other university offers this to the same degree.

Among the student body there is a large degree of interaction, both academic and social. This I found particularly helpful and enjoyable. Everybody likes to be known and it is reassuring to enter campus and get more than the impersonal cursory nod. The small numbers have led to some degree of community spirit among lay students. With the building of the Student Centre scheduled for the near future, lay students will finally have a focal centre of their own. Its facilities should greatly enhance the recreational side of student life.

The fact that Maynooth is the only university in Ireland situated outside of an urban centre is one that should not be overlooked. Whether or not rural tranquility enhances one's ability to study is debatable. Yet I, for one, would always favour the siting of universities in rural areas. The integration achieved with the local people is improving. More and more, students in Maynooth are being accepted as part of the local social structure. There are problems of course. A couple with a few babies in their house don't always appreciate the excesses of the students living next door, excesses which have the unfor-

tunate habit of surfacing in the early hours of the morning. Yet, on the whole, the local community accepts the presence of the student phenomenon.

For these reasons I feel Maynooth has a lot to offer to the Irish University system. It is no U.C.D. or T.C.D. but it should never attempt to emulate either. It has its own particular qualities and advantages and, provided it develops them properly, its future looks secure.

Some two weeks ago, Archbishop Dermot Ryan cut the first sod of the new Arts Block. It will take some years for this to be completed but the fact that it has been started is of immense importance. It represents a final and irrevocable commitment to the national university by Maynooth. Now that the new Arts Block has been commenced, Maynooth is assured of a university dimension. What type of university will it be? It is worth noting that the Minister for Education, Dick Burke, in his proposals for 3rd level education has suggested that Maynooth join U.C.C. and U.C.G. in the new N.U.I. Of interest to us is that Maynooth officials have opted for independence. It shows faith in the evolving university that the college authorities are prepared to opt for such a move.

All this is not to imply that all is well in Maynooth. However, the many problems that exist should not blind us to the merits that are present. I will be much happier for example when the Hierarchy cease to be the Trustees of the National University section. Their primary interest is and always has been the seminary and pontifical university. They are too occupied in other fields. The university needs a new body of Trustees.

I would like to conclude on a historical note. The original charter establishing Maynooth decreed that the college was to be for the education of youths of the popish persuasion. In other words it wasn't set up as a seminary. In the course of the 19th century the numbers of lay students dwindled and it was only then the student body consisted entirely of clerical students. This lasted until 1968 when, once again, history repeated itself with the reintroduction of lay-students. Perhaps Maynooth is recovering its roots. Let us hope that the 20th century lay presence lasts somewhat longer than the 18th century one!

GERARD P. MAHER

Reflections By Canon O'Grady

When the Great Christmas Anniversary comes each year we remember and celebrate with love and devotion and joy and good cheer the coming on earth of the Son of God, the Saviour at Bethlehem. He came because God loves us all so much that he sent his beloved Son to save us from our sins, from the clutches of Satan.

For centuries prophets and kings and ordinary people looked forward with intense yearning to the day of his coming. When at last he came there was no room for him in the city of David; he was an unwanted child. Wanted he was by Mary and Joseph and by God-fearing people; he was not wanted by so many who were

more concerned with personal power and material welfare. In the years of his public mission he was unwanted by so many for whom his teaching was too troublesome and too much at variance with what they expected from the Messiah. In the centuries since he founded his Church he was unwanted by so many because their hearts were filled with love of material things and because his kingdom, not being of this world, was utterly foreign to them. Today, even among our people who should have the warmest of welcomes for him, he is unwanted by so many because people are becoming more and more self-centred and materialistic, unwilling to

take up with him and to share with him the burden and the challenge of the Cross. It seems that many people with strange notions of freedom and independence, cannot accept that obedience, self-denial and self-sacrifice are the lot of those who would be his disciples.

In this era of the "unwanted child", human nature's pitiful paradox, we must make a loving generous response to the coming of the divine "Unwanted Child" by going to him and showing that we want him—fully accepting his teaching and his way of life. This is our hope for the future. This is our life both here and hereafter.

Union Swimming

One of the attractions for the Reunion week-end this year was a Swimming Championship. A very nice Trophy was put up as the prize, and it was keenly contested for. But in the final analysis the fight for it lay between two very strong swimmers, Vincent Sammon and Tom Ambrose. The latter won with a very close finish.

During the week-end the Swimming Pool was open to all visitors, and on Sunday some of the local pastmen brought along their families to enjoy a splash.

Students who finished in Roscrea June 1975 and their immediate destinations

Liam Brandon, Milford, Creggs, Co. Roscommon. Law, U.C.D.

John Burke, Frankstown, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath. Farming at home.

John P. Burke, Main Street, Eyrecourt, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. Medicine, U.C.G.

Gerard Carey, 21 Parliament Street, Kilkenny. School of Commerce, Rathmines.

Hugh Carty, Drumeel, Ballinalee, Co. Longford. Shannon Hotel Management School.

Gerard Casey, Mount Gerard, O'Connell Ave., Limerick. Insurance Firm Trainee.

Gerard Condon, Bridge Street, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick. Home Farm.

Gabriel Connaire, Main Street, Loughrea, Co. Galway. Commerce, U.C.G.

Gary Cooney, "Mount View", Ferrybank, Arklow, Co. Wicklow. School of Marketing, Dublin.

Christy Cowen, River Street, Clara, Co. Offaly. Management Course, R.T.C., Athlone.

Brendan Creed, A.I.B. Bank House, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary. N.I.H. E., Limerick. Business Studies.

Kenneth Creed, A.I.B. Bank House, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary. Repeating Leaving Cert.

David Cummins, 45 Iona Road,

Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Interim Job.

Paul Dodd, "Varvine", Killarney Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Repeating Leaving Cert.

Kevin Donoghue, Ballinderry, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. Home Business.

Donal Downes, 6 Dr. Mannix Road, Salthill, Galway. Law, U.C.G.

Frank Dwan, Cathedral Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. Arts U.C.D.

Colm Dwyer, Toomevara, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. Medicine, U.C.D.

John Fahy, "Hurstfield House", Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Dentistry, U.C.D.

Shane Finnegan, Barrack Street, Loughrea, Co. Galway. Law, U.C.D.

Noel Flood, Hyde Street, Mohill, Co. Leitrim. Commerce, U.C.D.

Pat Fortune, Main Street, Rathdowney, Co. Laois. Business Studies, N.I.H.E., Limerick.

John Galvin, New Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Accountancy, Limerick.

Terry Gleeson, 42 Kenyon Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. Home Business.

Brendan Glynn, Newbarn, Kilsallaghan, Co. Dublin. Engineering, U.C.D.

Eamon Hally, Ardfinnan, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. Accountancy, Cork.

Michael Hardiman, 62 Westbourne Road, Penarth, Glamorgan, Wales. Law, T.C.D.

Robert Hayes, Clonfert Ave., Portumna, Co. Galway. Architecture, U.C.D.

Gregory Hays, 61 Main Street, Loughrea, Co. Galway. Engineering, U.C.G.

Michael Kelleher, Ennistymon Rd., Lahinch, Co. Clare. Medicine, U.C.G.

Conor Kelly, Summerhill, Ennis-corthy, Co. Wexford. Engineering, U.C.D.

Conor Kenny, "Carrig", Sydenham Villas, Dublin 14. Repeating Leaving Certificate.

David Longworth, Ballinahown, Athlone, Co. Westmeath. E.S.B. Trainee.

David de Loughry, "Fermoye", Archer Street, Kilkenny. Interim Job.

Tom McNamara, 21 Castle Park, Clondalkin, Co. Dublin. Repeating Leaving Certificate.

Declan Madden, Grange End, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath. Law, U.C.D.

Donal Meade, Electrical Technology Course, Dundalk R.T.C.

Dermot Mellotte, The Neale, Claremorris, Co. Mayo. Hotel Management Course, R.T.C., Galway.

Charles Murray, "Loch Inc", Lanesboro, Co. Longford. Electronics, Kevin St. Tech. College.

John Naughton, Ballivor House, Banagher, Co. Offaly. Home Farm.

Peter Nolan, "Coolree", Castle-comer Road, Kilkenny. Commerce,

U.C.G.

Jim O'Brien, Salesboro, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. Interim job.

Vincent O'Brien, Castle St., Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary. Medicine, College of Surgeons.

Denis O'Dea, Bank of Ireland, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Arts, Maynooth.

Jerry O'Donoghue, Golden Bay, Killowen, Kenmare, Co. Kerry. Electronics, Crawford Institute, Cork.

Denis O'Donoghue, Golden Bay, Killowen, Kenmare, Co. Kerry. Arts, U.C.G.

John O'Grady, "The Quarry", Knockainey, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick. Home Farm.

Fiach O'Loughlin, Ticknock, Sandyford, Co. Dublin.

Colin Prendergast, Coolmine, Saggart, Co. Dublin. Repeating Leaving Cert.

Brendan Sherry, "St. John's", Foxford, Co. Mayo. Repeating Leaving Cert.

Peter Sherry, Moybrook, Foxford, Co. Mayo. Science, U.C.D.

Donal Spring, Strand St., Tralee, Co. Kerry. Law, T.C.D.

Jim Tunney, "Rosebank", Navan Road, Dublin 7. Repeating Leaving Cert.

James Wallis, "St. Fintan's", Cluan-dara, Oakpark, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Speak Up or Shut Up

LIAM S. MAHER

Debating in the college is so deeply embedded in tradition that it is in little danger of being uprooted. Yet each year students leave us without having spoken even once in public. This is a pity as basic control of the skills of public speaking is essential not merely for the welfare of democracy but also for the growth in self-expression of the individual.

Every society needs leaders. Leaders must be men or women of intelligence and integrity. They also need to be capable speakers. Leaders must exert influence and while influence is not completely dependant on proficiency in speech, it is greatly expanded when exercised by an eloquent protagonist. Of course, there is a danger in training young people to be forceful and/or intellectual contributors to discussion—the danger that they may use their skills for harmful objectives. But every form of training involves similar danger. Isn't that what free will is for—so that a choice can be made?

We all know the demagogue, the charlatan, the wrecker. Every organisation has its percentage of them, as has every community. They fulfil a function as they force frequently the genuine people to stand up and be counted—if not shouted down. Sometimes, organisations or clubs are taken over by the vocal bluffers but the reaction comes quickly—unless the groupings are moribund. The genuine leaders get together, challenge the phoney and oust them from positions of authority and leadership. That is how the democratic condition is maintained—when those who want good to prevail speak up and fight for the common good. But unless they are capable speakers, they will find it diffi-

cult to express their views and gain support for them. And unless they are thinking people, they will not have their views sufficiently clarified to be able to express them cogently.

So our efforts to promote interests and skills in the area of public speaking and debating are no more than a basic training for young people who can and almost inevitably will assume positions which will demand of them courageous and courteous expression of their views and principles. It is so easy to sit back and listen—and later criticise—and let others face the challenges of hypocrisy and even of corruption. We must steel our young people with the toughness of integrity and temper that steel with the glow of eloquence.

We do our best at the college but our best is often not good enough. We need the encouragement and support of the home. Parents should advise—but not compel—their boys to participate in the school debates and to try for places on the school public-speaking teams. We still have a national community where even conversation is not developed as an art, and where public speaking is too often equated with political self-seeking and humbug. True, we talk a lot when the tankers are overflowing but that sort of talk never did much good. How could it as it is normally the overflowing of a swollen mind, swollen with wind, that is!

We owe it to our young people that we train them in the art of self-expression and that we try to ensure that that art is not used for selfish or evil ends.

WE WISH OUR READERS AND THEIR FAMILIES
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Letter to the Editor

"Sea-Bank",
Anderby Creek,
Nr. Skegness,
Lincs.
PE24 5XX.
16th June 1975

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the copy of the *Roscrea Review* which I have just received.

On page 4 from which I quote "In the years of war and trouble that followed in Ireland until nearly 1923, Rugby was abandoned in Roscrea". This is not true.

I was in college from 1916-1918, and during that time I played out half with the redoubtable Paddy McGowan (Balbriggan), who in the opinion of many Rugby enthusiasts was the best uncapped scrum half during my student years in Dublin. Fax Cineribus.

Yours Faithfully,
J. G. COONEY.

The Abbot's Cup

Again this year the Golf Championship for the "Abbot's Cup" was played on the pitch and put course at the College. And again this year the Cup was won by Arthur Joyce of Birr, with a score of 27 points.

Dates for Your Diary

DUBLIN DANCE

The Dublin Branch are holding their Annual Dance on Friday 23rd April, at Jury's Hotel. For further information contact Tom Ambrose (Chairman), 61 South Hill, Dartry, Dublin 6; Simon Coyle, 57 Eglinton Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4. Tom's telephone number is 973826, Simon's is 691584.

Midland Branch

The Annual Dinner Dance of the Midland Branch will be held at the *Grand Hotel Moate* on Friday 6th February, 1976. Contacts:
Tom Maher (Chairman), Firmount House, Clara Road, Tullamore. Phone (0506) 21663.
Tom Haugh (Secretary), Highbury, Ballymahon Road, Athlone. Phone (0902) 2370.

NOTICES

The Southern Branch are holding a Social Week-end on 13/14 March 1976, in the Southern Hotel, Killarney. Contact:
Gerard Murphy, Main Street, Newmarket, Co. Cork.
Conor O'Flynn, "The Elms", Newmarket, Co. Cork.
(*Phone Newmarket 4).

The Galway Branch are having an informal Dinner in the Ardilaun Hotel, Taylors Hill, Galway, early in January. Contact:
Gerard Houlihan, "Fatima", Shantalla Rd., Galway.
(*Phone 091/64286).