



Thomas Aquinas College NEWSLETTER

Winter 1980

10000 N. Ojai Rd., Santa Paula, California 93060



College Weathers Torrential Rains

More than double the normal annual rainfall inundated Southern California during ten days in mid-February. Many areas experienced flooding, slides, and other storm-related damage. Santa Paula Creek, which borders the College on three sides and is one of the few year-round streams in the southland even in dry weather, was a torrent during the storm and washed out part of the shoulder of Highway 150 south of the campus.

The campus itself weathered the storm in good condition thanks to the extensive (and expensive) systems of storm drains under the site and gunite drainage ditches around it. Both systems handled the heavy runoff easily, partly because the newly-established lawns from the landscaping drive slowed and absorbed much of it.

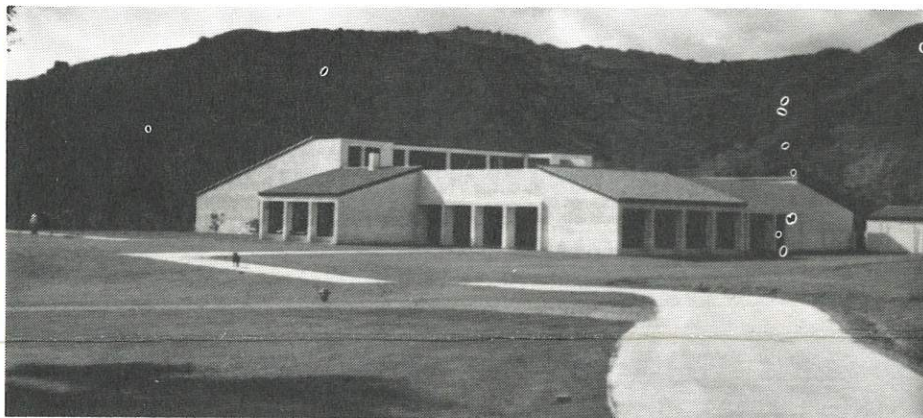
Some slippage of earth alongside the reservoir was halted by plastic sheeting which prevented saturation of the hillside. When this area is finally landscaped, even that problem should be alleviated. A positive result of the rains is that the surrounding hills, normally dry and rugged-looking, have taken on a new softness in many shades of green.

Art Donations Embellish Campus

(more on pg.2)



This Madonna and Child in Della Robbia style was donated to the College by John E. Schaeffer, member of the Board of Governors. It is permanently mounted directly into the stucco wall of St. Joseph Commons.



Patty Ford photo

A view of St. Joseph Commons looking west toward Ojai. The library wing and student lounge are in the foreground.

CAMPUS VISITORS PROMOTE STUDENT RECRUITMENT, COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The month of February saw a record number of visitors to the campus. The Santa Paula community was amply represented by 250 people attending a fund-raising auction for the Santa Paula Youth Employment Service; some \$7,500 was raised for the local charity.

Visitors had an opportunity to tour St. Joseph Commons and also heard Jack McClenahan, Director of College Relations, speak on the importance of the College to the community. He emphasized that while community service is an indirect effect of the campus facilities, the College is wholly devoted to the undiluted pursuit of Catholic liberal education. In the words of the Bulletin, "The College serves the community best by educating well."

Prospective students visited from Northern and Southern California, British Columbia, Oregon, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Maryland. Most stayed two days; some a week, visiting classes, discussing the curriculum with students and faculty, and enjoying some of the social and recreational activities of the area.

Visiting students were recommended to the College by parents, pastors, teachers, and alumni; some of whom accompanied the student and took the opportunity to learn more about the College, to relax, and join in its intellectual and spiritual life.

Admissions Director Thomas Susanka reports a high correlation between campus visits and applications. As of March, acceptance letters had been mailed to one full section of students for next Fall's entering class, with enough applications in progress

to fill a second section. A third section is possible if prospective students continue to be recommended for admission.

"The quality of the class is excellent," says Mr. Susanka. "The very high SAT scores (or other indicators in the case of Canadian applicants where the SAT is neither customary nor essential), the number with previous college work or military service, and the quality of the detailed written applications themselves suggest that applicants accepted into this class will find themselves in one of the most promising groups of young men and women ever attracted to the College."

The comparative chart of freshman SAT scores on page three of this Newsletter illustrates the standing of Thomas Aquinas College compared to other types of institutions.

Accreditation Visit

Also on campus were representatives of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Their visiting team report is based on the College's Self-Study, interviews with staff and students, class visitations, and documentation supplied by College records. All segments of the College community took part in the process. The W.A.S.C. commission will make a determination in June on whether to advance the College from the status of candidacy to full accreditation.

Dr. Milton Hood of the California Post-secondary Education Commission, under which the College's degree is currently approved and authorized, was an observer during the visit.



This hardwood carving by Nigerian sculptor Samuel Nwobodo is the gift of the family of Freshman Gordianus Nwozor. The artist used the familiar College emblem from an envelope as his model, giving the figures an African cast.



Patty Ford photo

This oil painting by Gertrude Schmitt depicts a mature St. Thomas Aquinas enumerating the parts of an argument.



Patty Ford photo

John and Rosemary Spillane presented this 100 year old South American Crucifix to the College in 1973. It hangs in the dining hall. Carved in wood and painted in soft colors, the crucifix is approximately four feet tall.

WINTER LECTURES

William B. Allen

Dr. William Barclay Allen, Associate Professor of Government at Harvey Mudd College and the Claremont Graduate School, delivered a Washington's Birthday lecture on the topic "Hope for Mankind: the American Expression."

Dr. Allen observed that Washington saw the "American Expression" as a reconciliation of natural right and Divine Providence. He cited the Mormon sponsored Freeman Institute as making "a typical error of contemporary interpretations of the Declaration" in abandoning natural rights out of reverence for Providence.

He further asserted that "the willingness to cast aside natural rights undermines the appeal to God's direction of American affairs." To establish the correctness of Washington's view, Dr. Allen explained the Federalist Papers arguments on the relationship between the Declaration and the Constitution.

A rousing question and answer session debated whether the term "rights" has any relationship to justice or, indeed, whether "rights" exist. Dr. Allen commented later, "Seldom, no, never have I experienced so stimulating and rewarding an evening spent in this manner."

Carol Day

Miss Carol Day, from the Indiana University graduate program in the history of science spoke on the topic "Common Natures, Mental Terms, and the Object of Knowledge."

Miss Day compared the positions of St. Thomas Aquinas, Duns Scotus, and William of Ockham on the immediate object of knowledge. She asked whether it is possible to preserve scientific knowledge of things external to our minds if we hold that the immediate object of scientific knowledge is a mental proposition.

Duns Scotus and Ockham represent two very different approaches to the problem of knowledge, one tied to a refined metaphysical realism and the other to nominalism or conceptualism. "I thought," said Miss Day, "that the students at Aquinas would enjoy hearing how their epistemological doctrines compare to those of St. Thomas."

Rev. Louis Bouyer

Father Louis Bouyer, C.O., currently at the University of San Francisco, spoke on "The Meaning of the Eucharist in the New Lituigy." Father Bouyer is the author of *Eucharist*.

SPRING CALENDAR

- May 2 Lecture
Rev. Harold O. Koenig
Episcopal Cathedral
Jackson, Mississippi
"A Sample of Biblical Criticism"
- May 16 Lecture
Richard S. Westfall
University of Indiana
"Order of Composition of the *Principia*"
- June 7 Graduation
Baccalaureate Mass and Sixth Annual Commencement.
Speaker: Economist Colin Clark

LIBRARY SUPPORT

Donations of books to the library can be made very economically by sending them Special Fourth-Class Rate. Address the books to Mrs. Viltis Jatulis, librarian, Thomas Aquinas College, Santa Paula, California 93060. The rate begins at 57 cents for the first pound; even 50 pounds is only \$7.50. In addition to the selected list in the last Newsletter, donations of whole personal collections are anticipated as a major step in enlarging the library. On a more modest scale, the donation of the complete works of an individual author is always a welcome contribution. These contributions are deductible to the full extent of state and federal tax laws.

Special note: Anyone in Southern California with an unused piano in good condition is urgently requested to consider donating it to the College. The gift would be appreciated by all.

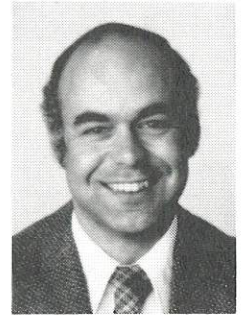


Patty Ford photo

The student lounge provides a comfortable center for recreational reading, good music, and conversation. Pictured are Theresa Orlowski, Vancouver; Carlos Venegas, Los Angeles; Franklin Salazar, Denver; and Gordianus Nwozor, Nigeria.

Dean of Student Affairs Appointed To Board

Thomas E. Dillon
Ojai, California

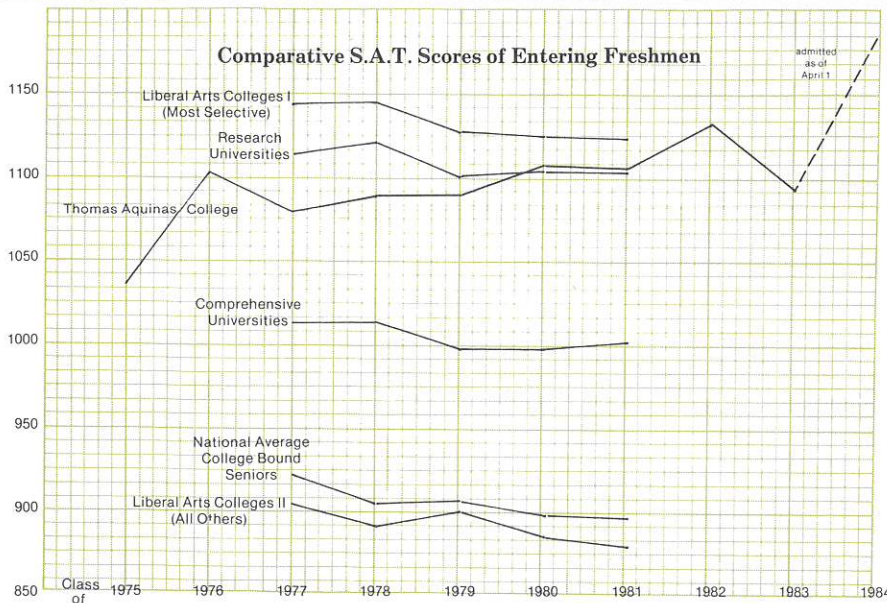


Dr. Thomas E. Dillon, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, was elected to the Board of Governors at their January meeting. Dr. Dillon is an Integral Liberal Arts graduate of St. Mary's College of California. He earned his masters degree and doctorate in philosophy at the University of Notre Dame.

He has been a tutor at Thomas Aquinas College since 1972. College President Ronald P. McArthur commended him to the Board for his service at Assistant Dean, his work on the Instruction Committee, and for functioning as Accreditation Liaison Officer to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Dr. Dillon and his wife Terry have three children and are active members of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Ojai.

The graph at left is based on the 1978 report of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, statistics of the College Entrance Examination Board, and records of Thomas Aquinas College.



FROM SCEPTICAL VISITOR TO GRADUATING SENIOR: ONE STUDENT RECALLS HIS FIRST CAMPUS VISIT



Patty Ford photo

Senior Ed Hopkins is one of many Thomas Aquinas students who had already completed some college work before beginning this curriculum as a freshman.

Thomas Aquinas College is a family college in several senses. English author-lecturer Christopher Derrick, who wrote his best selling book, *Escape from Scepticism*, about Thomas Aquinas College, pointed out that "the difference in size between a small school and a large school is like the difference between a family and a crowd." Its small size results in close personal relationships between students, faculty and administration. Many of its students (40% over the nine years) are literally brothers and sisters, coming from a number of large Catholic families.

Senior Ed Hopkins of Cazenovia, New York, for example, first visited the College because his brother was there.

"Four years ago," he recalls, "I would never have dreamed of going to school here in a very small four-year Catholic college, actually receiving an education in the truth that makes us free. But it happened.

"I had been attending a prestigious university in upstate New York and enjoying every minute of it (especially the weekends). It took me a little less than two weeks visiting Aquinas to realize some things which were to alter the whole direction of my life—things which I had thought could never exist today in education.

"First, the student is not given a lecture to note, memorize, and regurgitate at exam time. Each student is expected to read and prepare every assignment well enough to come to class with questions and his own understanding of the great book under discussion.

"Second, the faculty is wholly devoted to teaching rather than research or activism. They gave up steady jobs at other institutions to gamble on the hope that there were students equally willing to preserve in the pursuit of truth, virtue, and God.

"Third, the atmosphere which permeates the entire College is the product of a truly Christian community interacting together toward the highest ends. The teachers are concerned with the betterment of each student, spiritually as well as intellectually; and the students are not only interested in their own development and formation, but with that of their neighbor.

"The beauty and quality of this College is best appreciated by attendance or, at least, a visit. Like my patron, St. Thomas, I had to see to believe; but like my brother and all the students here, I found the 'gamble' worth taking."

Ed's sister Marian is a sophomore at Thomas Aquinas, continuing the tradition.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This College was established to educate its students—which statement, though unexceptional to those unacquainted with colleges and universities, is yet controversial within the academy itself. Professors, by and large, are encouraged to publish, to “advance” their own specialties, and to become noteworthy for their advice to politicians and businessmen. Teaching is a sideline, to be undertaken by those incapable of anything else or whose own intellectual pursuits have atrophied over the years.

We tutors, however, consider it our *primary duty* to teach and learn with those who come to us. In that sense we are all students of the greatest minds, and, at least, participate in the brightness of their light.

We are successful if our students learn, if they begin to possess the liberal arts, if

they wish to pursue the life of wisdom as the circumstances of their lives permit, and if they remain faithful to Our Lord and His Church.

It looks, more and more, as if we are succeeding in our aims, and as if we will continue to succeed; but only if we are faithful to the life of learning and teaching, and if our graduates are faithful to the life of learning and teaching, and if our graduates are faithful in their pursuit of the good life. Such commitments, more than human, can only come through God's Grace, and hence through prayer, ours and yours.

Continue to pray, then, that we will remain constant in our aims, that our efforts will continue fruitful, and that the Lord will continue to bless our efforts to serve Him by helping to educate those who want to know.

—Ronald P. McArthur



Dr. Ronald P. McArthur makes a point in a philosophy tutorial. Junior Kerry Sullivan of Chicago follows the discussion.

Principal administrative officers of the College all teach, which is both economically and educationally sound.

National Development Effort

Dramatic Increase In College Funding

In July of 1978, Thomas Aquinas College initiated its five year, sixteen million dollar Independence Fund drive. The campaign is the College's effort to secure permanent establishment independent of government funding and control, where the Truth of Christ and can properly illumine the classical liberal arts.

Since its inception, three and one-half million dollars has been raised. Within that total are some dramatic increases in the number of donors in the various categories. For example, the fiscal year 1976-77 saw the College with 106 active small contributors. So far this year over 700 friends of the College have contributed to its financial well being with small contributions. For those contributors who gave \$1,000 or more, the figure is almost as startling. In the fiscal year 1976-77, the College enjoyed the support of 40 people who gave over \$1,000. This year that figure has jumped to over 80.

Dennis Koller, Assistant to the President, evaluates the situation this way: "The reason these figures are significant is because for the College to move financially it must enjoy a wide range of support. The accrediting team of W.A.S.C. saw this two years ago when they visited. They told us then that a reason they would deny us accreditation was that we did not enjoy what they considered to be "grass-roots" support. The team visited us again in February of this year, and were very pleased with the progress we made in that area. I don't mean to imply that accreditation is therefore assured, but our increase in active contributors certainly strengthened our case.

"By the way, since the decision of the team will not be made until June, any ad-

ditional figures we can provide them between now and then will weigh in their decision. Please, therefore, if you are not yet a contributor, no matter how big or small, to the College, I ask you to become one

immediately. It will add weight to our contention that the aims and ideals of Thomas Aquinas College enjoy a wide-ranging base of support throughout this country." Write for an Independence Fund brochure.



His Holiness Pope John Paul II talks with James Montanaro, Thomas Aquinas College class of 1977. Jim has been studying at the Angelicum in Rome. He is a Brother of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, having taken his first vows recently. His ordination to the priesthood will be in the spring of 1983.