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Idzerda: CSB's 8th President

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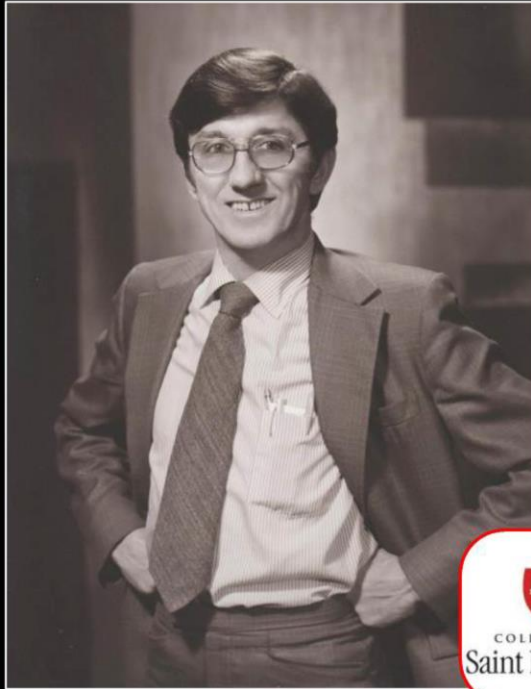
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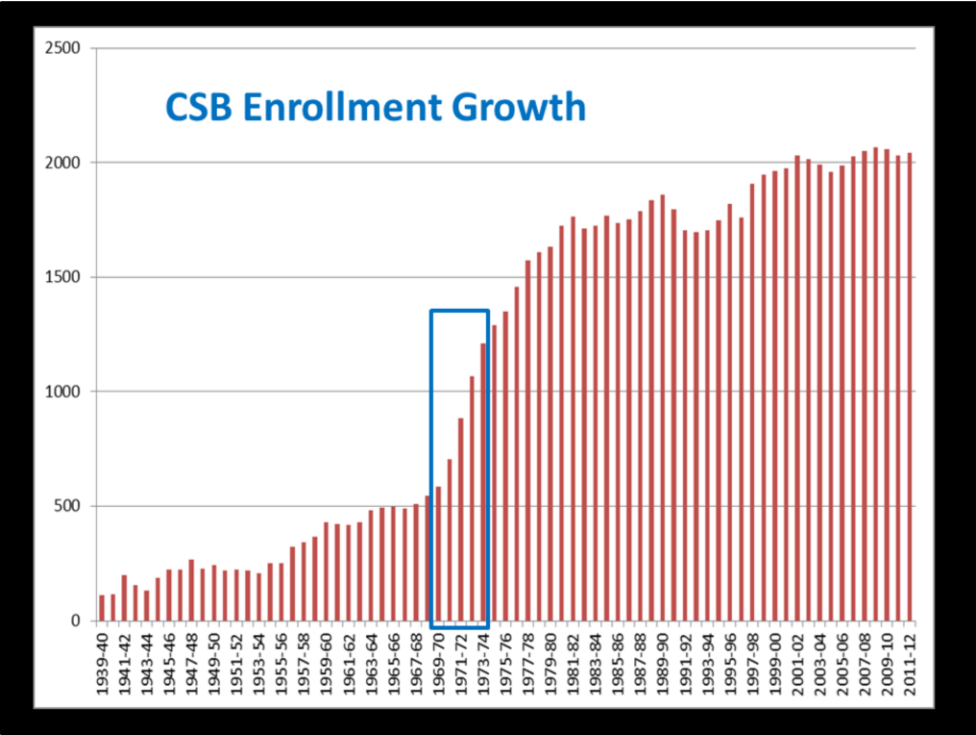


Stanley Idzerda
1920-2013

8th CSB President
1968-1974



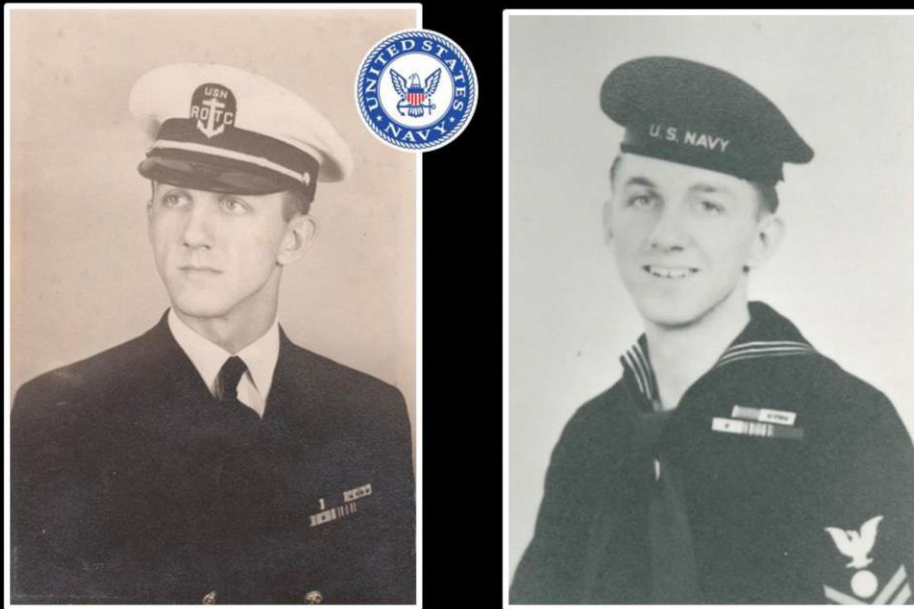
From SBMArchives



During Idzerda's Term at CSB:

- enrollment more than doubled
- building projects:
 - dorms/apartments/trailers,
 - student center (loft and bookstore)
 - swimming pool and horsemanship facility in 1972-73
 - former high school used as Henrita Academic Building and Richarda Dormitory
- first capital campaign of ca. \$5 million
- worked with SJU's presidents to further cooperation
- greater faculty involvement in governance
- established overseas program in Luxembourg, 1968-69
- established educational program in the Bahamas
- established East Asian Studies program, 1968-69
- developed a liberal studies and an individualized major in 1971-72

Stan in the Navy. An audio recording of his story of surviving the attack on Pearl Harbor is in the CSB Archives.



From SBMArchives

An audiorecording of his story of surviving the attack on Pearl Harbor is in the Archives.

Honors Program, College, Church

Dr. Idzerda Views The Challenge

By Jerry Kolbinger

"I cannot understand why the Church—which is really you and me—is not apostolic. It is the confoundest puzzle I've observed in the whole of Western society. Is it selfishness or fear we won't be considered well bred?"

"A corollary puzzle is why so many people feel themselves or their fellow Catholics are in danger of losing their faith. It is an interesting phenomenon when the Catholic layman is afraid of thinking about his faith for fear of losing it. For instance, many Catholics fear that one year at a secular university will undo the influence a Catholic home and 13 years of parochial education has had on their children. One may give his faith away, but can he lose it?"

It was with such challenging opinions and questions that Dr. Stanley Idzerda, head of the Honors College at Michigan State University visited St. John's as a Tri-College consultant. Besides separate meetings with the faculties of St. Cloud State, St. Benedict's and St. John's, Dr. Idzerda gave two lectures to St. John's students and granted an interview for the *Record*.

Dr. Idzerda's liberal background includes a B.S. in engineering, an M.A. in history from Notre Dame, and a Ph.D. in aesthetics from Western Reserve University.

The main topics at the meetings and the interview were the Honors Program, the ideal student at the ideal St. John's, and the Catholic

tent to offer courses which are mere repetitions of high school material.

Dr. Idzerda predicts that in the next two decades more and more honors programs will be established until it is a regular part of education. It will take time, however, because "of the three most conservative institutions—the Church, the army and the university—the university is the most rigidly conservative."

The ideal student at the ideal St. John's was given much attention by Dr. Idzerda. His main ideas were: a student at St. John's is impossible and incredible. A student at St. John's—he is in a community of scholars. Students by their own actions create the intellectual climate and shape the university. The college cannot do it alone. All that enlightens and fructifies the student's actions is the liturgical-communal aspect of his work. The key stone for his college life is the parable of the talents.

Some more particular aspects are these: the ideal student would not indulge in cheating himself. He would want a subjective examination, realizing that "it does not boil down to five alternatives, three of which are phoney." He would insist that the empirical sciences be empirical. Freshmen English courses would be abolished because every class would demand a correct use of English. The philosophy and history of the student's own particular interest would be carefully scrutinized. Equal vigor would be upheld

role of the layman in the Church. He thinks that in striving for acceptance, the educated Catholic will more often choose to be

Stanley Idzerda, head of the Honors College at Michigan State University visited St. John's as a Tri-College consultant. Besides separate meetings with the faculties of St. Cloud State, St. Benedict's and St. John's, Dr. Idzerda gave two lectures to St. John's students and granted an interview for the *Record*.

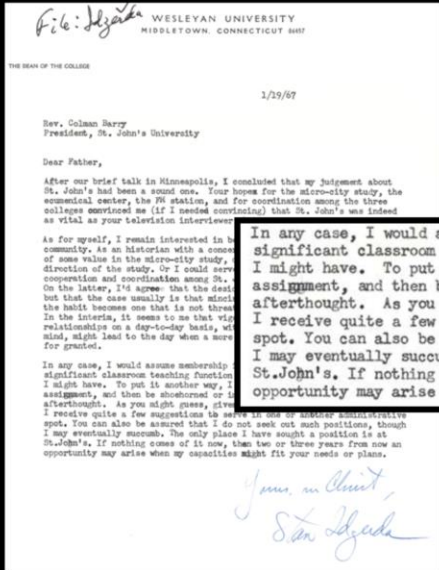
lies will be in a good condition when non-Catholics can say our defect is that too often we become rationalists—namely, that we would be so entranced by the glory of our intellect and delighted with its use that we'd be going overboard. Now they say we are sentimentalists, and they are right."

Stan first came to our campuses as early as 1960

The Record March 25, 1960, p. 4

1960 03 25 p.4 Record article

As for myself, I remain interested in becoming a member of the St. John's community.



January 1967

Stan had an interest in SJU

January 1967 letter to SJU President Fr. Colman Barry

1967 Jan. 19 Letter to Colman Barry - 1960:4

12/24/67

Dean Father Barry -

I have spent many days as a consultant on college campuses in recent years, and each visit I make to St. Benedict and St. John's finds me more impressed with the sense of community I discover there. A two day visit this autumn strengthened that impression.

At the present time I am contemplating a move to a collegiate milieu more conducive to the family spirit and joy which a Christian college can engender. Might there be a place for me at St. John's? I am open to almost any position for which I might qualify, as long as it includes some teaching; full time teaching would be satisfactory too.

I enclose a note; since I'll be at the AAC meeting in Minneapolis next month, perhaps I could visit Colquhoun if a position is available.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours,
Stanley Idjenda

December 1967

"...each visit I make to St. Benedict's and St. John's finds me more impressed with the sense of community I discover there..."

"Might there be a place for me at St. John's? I am open to almost any position for which I might qualify, as long as it includes some teaching..."

December 24, 1967 letter to Colman Barry

1967 12 24 Box 1960 f4_Page_1 in the SJU Archives

February 12, 1968 letter from Colman Barry

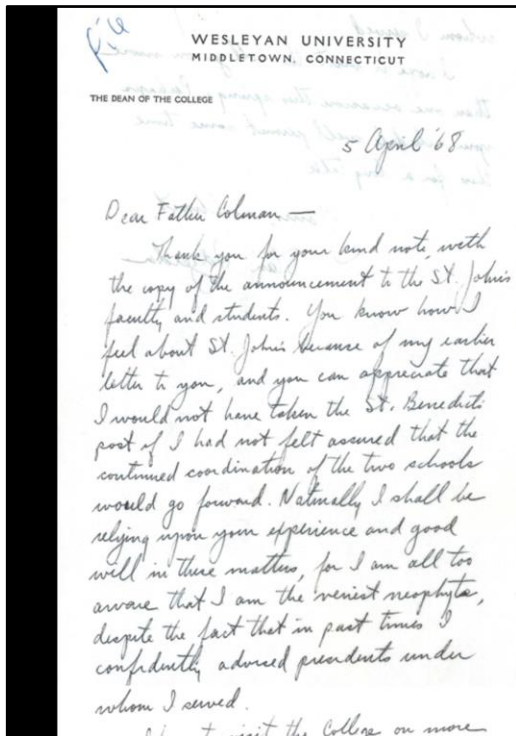
I have been hoping that we might find some way, mutually, for you to come here. You are exactly the type of person we want and we are honored that you think of us. Thank you very much. I have met few persons, if any, in the academic community who interest me more, and with whom I feel more at home. I think we could do things for Saint John's, Saint Benedict's, and eventually Saint Cloud State College.

SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
COLLEGEVILLE, MINNESOTA

"But...as you know, we are in the midst of a co-institutional study, ...and we must wait for the results...May I ask if we can have a moratorium until the end of the study...if we could have one more year to organize ourselves we could be in a position to invite you here..."

PRESIDENT
12 February 1968
Dear Stanley,
Thank you for your letters and also for our good conversation in Minneapolis. I have been thinking and thinking since then and ask you to excuse me for not answering until now. I have been hoping that we might find some way, mutually, for you to come here. You are exactly the type of person we want and we are honored that you think of us. Thank you very much. I have met few persons, if any, in the academic community who interest me more, and with whom I feel more at home. I think we could do things for Saint John's, Saint Benedict's, and eventually Saint Cloud State College.
But the problem here is, as you know, that we are in the midst of a co-institutional study (financed by Hill Family Foundation: \$40,000), and we must wait for the results of the same. We do not know if we will federate, merge or remain co-institutional; we could even go our separate ways - God forbid! In joining you in in the center of this study, and before it is completed (December, 1968), would be precipitous to say the least. May I ask if we can have a moratorium until the end of the co-institutional study conducted by Louis Rayburn? I would like very much to bring up your name to him, if I may, who ask him where he thinks you might fit in. I would not do this without your permission, he assured. But if we could have one more year to organize ourselves we could be in a position to invite you here as you desire and as we need. I would like to see you in this letter if you would be in a position to consider your proposal and us a year from now.
Just this week I withdrew from all reorganization plans to await the completion of the study. It seemed the only logical way to proceed. Otherwise we would be making decisions without a terminus ad quem as they used to say in an ordered world.
Please drop me a line, or call collect (612-363-7516) at your convenience. I would like to talk with you about the potential of an ecumenical college which has never been attempted in USA and which I have a heart for attempting. Colleges today are really denominational, including secular colleges. More of this later.
I like very much your talk to faculty at Saint Louis University in December, 1966. Thanks much for sending it. I am to give the commencement address at U of Minn. this year and would like to use parts of it. Best I've read in a long time. May it
All very best wishes, as always,
Colman, or
Please excuse my poor typing in haste.

1968 02 12 from Colman Barry Box 1960 f4 in the SJU Archives



April 1968: Mother Henrita has asked Idzerda to be CSB's president

"...I would not have taken the St. Benedict's post if I had not felt assured that the continued coordination of the two schools would go forward..."



1968 04 05 Box 1960 f4 in the SJU Archives

Photo of Idzerda with 1970's CSB logo, Sept. 1972, in CSB Archives

THE TORCH

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE COLLEGE OF SAINT BENEDICT

Volume 4

St. Joseph, Minnesota, April 26, 1968

Number 7



Cheryl Flanner, Jim Thibodeau, and John McEwen in a scene from the children's play.

Talking Donkey Attracts Crowds

The final project for the 1967-68 experimental theatre series, *Talking Donkey and His Talking Family* by Robert and Lillian Manton, opened yesterday for its 11-performance showing. Through experimental theatre the drama department attempts to educate people about the theatre. As the only outlet within the area that presents an annual children's play, the College of St. Benedict attempts to show children what theatre is like and to give them theatre experiences. The plays are presented in an attempt to defuse the "pantomime show" idea and to make more than television complimentary. This year a children's play to the expense of the experimental series more children have come under the production. Mr. Dave O'Fallon has given the children's play to his St. Benedict Performing Arts club as a semester project. Responsibilities of the club included selection of

the play, selection of a director, and the ability to work within a fixed budget.

Although the play itself is a sophisticated children's show and readily understandable, it does present problems to the director and the actors. The director and his associates are given an opportunity to employ all the facilities available. In order to do this and to involve some persons, Roger Knudsen, the director, is using a relatively inexperienced cast. He feels that this play is an opportunity to initiate those inexperienced people into drama and to demonstrate to them what theatre is actually about.

Students are doing technical work on the play as well as acting in it. Staging and light were designed by Steve Hutchinson and costumes were designed by Rita Newman. Dennis Melillo is responsible with sound for the play. As technical coordinator, Steve

Lauritzen supervises set construction and all technical parts of the show. Linda Hayes is stage manager and Steve Bergner is prop mistress. Linda Vetter heads the light crew, Mary Ann Lundquist supervises makeup, and Jim Schneider heads publicity for the play.

Talking Donkey and His Talking Family opens from 8 o'clock to 10 o'clock in the Forum of the Benedictine Arts Center. Tickets are available at the Arts Center ticket office.

Performances for this sophisticated children's play are today at three and five, tomorrow at ten, one and three, and tonight at one, three and five o'clock in the Forum of the Benedictine Arts Center. Tickets are available at the Arts Center ticket office.

Pure Intellectuals

Sister Mary Resigns Her Post; Dr. Idzerda Ascends as President

By Mary Jo

The resignation of Sister Mary Jo as President of the College of St. Benedict was announced recently. Sister Mary, fourth president in the 44-year operation of the college, held this position for six years.

During this time the academic program was re-evaluated and the A.S.T. program introduced. Twenty lay men and women were added to the teaching and administrative faculty and the Associate Board of Trustees was expanded to include lay representation. Public relations, development, and business management offices, and a guidance program were also set up.

Sister Mary urged more participation of faculty and students in the operation of the college and encouraged more intimate cooperation with St. John's. She feels that the two campuses should be able to complement each other in practically all departments. She has urged con-

tinued cooperation with St. John's in the biology department. Sister Mary received her bachelor's degree from the College of St. Benedict. She holds a master's degree from St. Louis University and her doctorate from Fordham University, where she operated in cooperation. In 1964-65 she served on research at the Mac Fleck Research Institute in Toronto as a Fulbright Scholar. She has also worked at the University of Minnesota, Columbia University, Colorado State University, George University, and the Marine Biological Laboratories at Woods Hole, Mass. Sister Mary was also elected to the National Honorary Science Society, Sigma Xi. In 1959 Sister Mary taught a credit laboratory course in genetics over KCTV-TV.

As part of a four member Trustee Research Team, Sister Mary took a round-the-world trip in 1966. She was the assistant of the group which included

By Ginny Walter

Dr. Idzerda will succeed Sister Mary, O.S.B., who has held the position for the past five years. His duties will begin July 1. Dr. Idzerda will be based in the Forum House located on the college campus.

Receiving his bachelor's degree from Ball State Wallace College in Ohio and also from the University of Notre Dame, he furnished his education, gaining both his master's degree and doctorate from Western Reserve University. Military service included serving as a World War II naval officer, in which he received the Purple Heart.

He has served as assistant professor of history at Michigan State University. His postgraduate work

with the family and his education. He is very well accepted by students. Students feel they could talk about any subject. He is willing to listen to change as long as it is well thought out.

He is a team oriented about people and willing to help. His orientation has represented his past and personal, handwritten reply.

Ann Kowarski, president of the Student Council, has also worked with Dr. Idzerda. She found him to be "positive, interested in others, open and responsive with people." He respects the individual and makes you feel that your ideas can be important too.

He is interested in the type of staff found at St. John's, and has shared with the times he heard.

Dr. Idzerda looked out Benedictine Arts Center and programs had there to be a more exciting part of one's college and an important part too. He is also enthusiastic about cooperation with St. John's and is looking forward to working with the administration there.

April 26, 1968

Idzerda's appointment is announced in CSB's paper



1968 April 26, *The Torch*, "Sister Mary Resigns her Post; Dr. Idzerda Ascends at President"

Dr. Idzerda Speaks...

Edited by Jennifer Kempf

A week ago, on Tuesday evening, Dr. Idzerda was in Mary Hall Commons (with his dog, black and shiny) to present his ideas to the whole student body. This he did marvelously on some very pertinent subjects, and since no tape recorders or good shorthand was at work to capture his "half-century wisdom," some of the thoughts will be presented here.

His first note sounded was on "availability." Being a man to not miss anyone who wishes to see him, but being at the same time someone who perhaps would not mind the everywhere-presence of God, Dr. Idzerda strongly suggested that, when he is not found in his office, to leave word in the mail holder on his desk — stressing the mail holder, or otherwise "you might be lost forever."

However, in a later response to a question on whether to go through student

In his accustomed informal stand, Dr. Stanley Idzerda speaks with the Bennies Tuesday night, September 17.



vey our inner reality and sound judgment. He has great faith in us as women — the women of St. Benedict's.

Dr. Idzerda has further faith in the woman who is not indifferent or does not have time to be bored. To a question addressed him on the cause of indifference among students, he gave some thought provokers:

1) You really have to love yourself which means being

the possibilities. In fact, and his own person supports this, "This is what life is all about: a joy-filled celebration," he said. Asked why students seemed to be slacking off on attending Mass, he offered some definite, yet understanding statements:

1) Using his own life as an example, he recalled having been confronted also with the same problem in his early

September 24, 1968

Poets Corner

WEEK NUMBER 1

The windows and globes of light were as abstractions
standing forward from the forms in black.
I saw a baby held against his neck. I wanted to cry. Can't
I reach out and feel its silk-shine curl around my fingers,
catch its freckled laugh, give it a loving squeeze?
A Gorgeous day. A bounce of wind-down
bopped me on the head to make sure I was real.
Who am I to all these people? Where is my feeling into my
inner meaning? Is life worth all this?
The proud beam dressed itself coquettishly in the sun-It danced
around the table, flirted with the mirror and glided through
the door.
So I was running away. I did not know from what. She smiled
at me and called my name. I never saw the pink and the tree
reflected in the windows before tonight. To rediscover awareness
self-discipline, satisfaction. To be a-i-i-v-e--
The red and gold lined together and in the horizon I see a circle
unending...I am a Benny.

By LaDonna Schoch

Great Issues

Pat Radloff

"What's so great about formal education anyway?"

"Well, you can come away knowing that you know."

"And at least in formal liberal education you get a foundation in several fields."

"Yes, but why is that so important?"

"Well, one reason is that you can communicate with people in other fields than your own."

"Is better communication then, the goal of formal

volved with a means by which she can verbalize and discuss with others something which is directly relevant to her: her life's experience now, her education.

Discussions such as these are directed toward the possible formation of an experiential college — and experience which could be much like the present January Term, created for the purpose of experiencing the best education possible.

1968 September 24, *The Torch* p. 6 "Dr. Idzerda Speaks..."

Bennieville Revolutions

What's new on campus? The College of St. Benedict opens its arms to 143 new freshmen and 17 transfer students. We've got a new head speaker next this year.



The Torch Sept. 24, 1968, p. 2



Why The Weekend Fake-Outs?

By Linda Hutchinson
The first great athletic flop has hung. The first major...
"How do I get away from here? It's really nice and all that, but I want to meet other girls, see. Come and get me after a few dances. Ask for money or something. Or tell me my brother's looking for me."

Letters

Dear Editor:
I have only been in college three short weeks, but I have done a lot of thinking and even a bit of growing up.

There are my thoughts on maturity - I hope that maybe these words can help some.

The girl who is waiting around waiting for maturity to overcome her is apt to find herself a disappointed school girl at the age of 18.

To make your decision now - choose maturity and move into the world of today or choose immaturity and stand forever in the world of yesterday.

Give the caffeine a final chance, we read the dinner menu of pork chops, buttered potatoes, baked beans, tossed salad and hot apple sauce. Keeping the faith, we picked up our trays only to get stopped in the four corners. We, personally, were served cold cuts, really cold beans, cranberry sauce, cookies, rolls and milk. Later, we heard of approximately an difference in the menu. Had they all been served at once, they would have made a 15 foot line.

A telephone follow-up concert, operating at and to scheduled inauguration activities.

four short weeks. A huge riot around the campus, a check in the lunchroom, a revamping of student government - that's what's new on campus.

For Dr. Stanley Kizorka, in behalf of myself and all the students of St. Benedict's, WELCOME!

The actions of men like the index of a head point out what is most remarkable in them.

Heinrich Heine
Mada Ellen Swain

For the inaugural event, the inauguration banquet will be on hand here at the Arts Center or garden at concert during which Dr. Heine will be introduced to the concert audience.

A telephone follow-up concert, operating at and to scheduled inauguration activities.

There is almost no doubt there always have to be the grounds.

We've concluded year after year that maturity just isn't the place to get to know people. Maybe expectations are all wrong. Besides talking over the top of the psychiatric hands and coming down with language the next day - for the majority not much else is accomplished.

In a discussion with Dr. Robert Hesterman, one of the consultants on an-inauguration, he commented that this is a problem of every campus.

The big weekend comes up, everyone has to make the big decision. They put their "best" foot forward - and "put" the foot in the ground.

It's really funny and that really you, if you're not hard, everything is in fact, it seems to take six months until everyone relaxes - spring in the northwest is really great. Why does it take so long?

The same thing happens year after year - too many are disappointed. What is to be done? I've never asked: What should replace mine? Is this just a passing phase - a sign of the disturbed times we are living in? When I see how what they want or how to get it.

Constance Giff
Freshman

Experience

Depth...
Let us not look back in anger, nor forward in fear, but around in awareness.

James Thurber
The word for now is to let ourselves "be." Let ourselves react to the many things around us, we should not merely exist, but experience reality.

Looking for the effects of the spirit on campus this fall, I would say that we have successfully created an atmosphere of awareness.

Hopefully, this attitude of awareness will spread all over St. Benedict as an ideal student body, not just to problems and issues of our school, but current happenings and developments in the "outer" world.

Questioning is a part of the process of making ourselves

1968 Sept. 24, p. 2 The Torch -

September 24, 1968

Bennieville Revolutions

What's new on campus? The College of St. Benedict opens its arms to 183 new freshmen and 17 transfer students.

We've got a new loud speaker system this year so anyone who feels like ducking out of the office, getting away from the humdrum, and taking in the sights of St. Ben's can feel free to do so without the worry of missing important phone calls or messages.

The buildings on campus are even undergoing a change. The St. Florian power plant welcomes a new boiler and an extension of its walls to better equip our rooms with warmth for the long winter months ahead. Oh Joy, Oh Bliss!

But there is something else new on campus this year. He rides a black Schwinn bike, can often be seen in a madras windbreaker, bums cigarettes (but pays for his own cokes), and has a faithful companion who goes by the name of Wes, his black mongrel.

He can often be seen in the Commons just chewing the fat with whoever passes by, or maybe you've seen him at lunch some afternoon yucking it up over a scrambled egg sandwich.

He attends Mass at St. Ben's on Sundays with his wife and family. You've probably seen him; he's the one with the little girl on his shoulders.

His name is Dr. Stanley Idzerda and his position is president of the College of St. Benedict.

Dr. Idzerda has been with the students less than a month and has given us privileges we have worked for years to get. Just what has he done?

Dr. Idzerda wants to work arm-in-arm with the Student Council. He wants to give you and me a say in everything that goes on here. He has given Council two seats on the academic policy committee. This is the committee that determines our college requirements and curriculum. He has also provided a slot on the administrative council.

Student Council this year has been allotted \$20 of the \$50 from each student's activity fee. This in turn will be allotted to the various clubs and organizations on campus.

His tentative plans for our liturgy may well be a revolution in religious affairs. How does a midnight mass in the Commons on Saturday night sound?

The list is long and our future is wide open. The whole aura of this campus has changed in these four short weeks. A bike ride around the campus, a chuckle in the lunchroom, a revamping of student government — that's what's new on campus.

To Dr. Stanley Idzerda, in behalf of myself and all the students of St. Benedict's, WELCOME!

"The actions of men like the index of a boat point out what is most remarkable in them."

Henrick Heime

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The Torch Sept. 24, 1968, p. 2

1968 Sept. 24, p. 2 *The Torch* -



Photo 1970 Sept. in CSB Archives; quote from SBMArchives

Saint Ben's and Saint John's: "Why Should We Travel Together?"

by Dr. Stanley J. Idzerda



Are Saint John's University and the College of Saint Benedict going somewhere together? Yes. Where are we going? That's not exactly clear, but, like a pair of pilgrims continuing along a new road, the two of us are going forward with a sense of adventure, trepidation and hope.

The road we are traveling together has a number of sign posts: "Cooperation," "Coordination," "Co-Institutional," "Co-Education." If you don't like the sound or flavor of one of those words, choose a couple of the others; just so long as you keep the prefix meaning "with" or "together."

Why should we travel together? Ten years of educational collaboration between the two colleges has been motivated by a number of opportunities and needs which vary with the times. Yet, one reason for our union of efforts remains constant: we want to provide a richer, more diverse curriculum, we wish the setting for learning to be more varied, and the learning experience to be more fruitful. We want a wider range of facilities and resources and more numerous faculty available for each person in each college. In brief, the continued stress of our commitment has been the welfare, the growth, the development, etc., of you wish, the deeper education of each student in the separate colleges. If we succeed in that, we have served our small interests.

Today's college education is more demanding than the past, but it needs graduates not less demanding times. Therefore, if we offer the combined facilities and facilities of St. Ben's and St. John's to every student in both schools, we assure that the whole set of course offerings will at least be more richly patterned and widely ranging, and that the additional faculty bring wider experience and different training to the teaching of students from both schools.

So, several years ago, we concluded that we should have an identical academic calendar (without it, how do you easily enroll students on the other campus?). As we joined in a common calendar,

we started a calendar neither school had followed earlier, the 4-1-4 plan, where the young man or woman takes 4 courses in the fall, one in January and 4 in the spring.

The enrollment of men and women on the "other" campus each semester has grown. The buses between the two colleges are packed. Last spring 800 students were enrolled in courses on the two campuses. The student response is good and the faculty seem convinced that the exchange is good for the student.

Even while it is self evident that the students' educational opportunities are enhanced and made more vital owing to the cooperation between SJU and CSB, we must grant that even the best intentioned never act from a single motive. We should acknowledge that the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's found it worthwhile to join forces for at least two additional reasons: sex and money.

It's hard to say which of those two subjects humanity finds more fascinating or troublesome, but let's talk about sex first. For more than a century, much of higher education was based upon the supposition that men and women were most effectively educated when the sexes were separated. The opposite sex was not to be engaged in a common education because it was, at the least, a distracting element. Also, it was assumed, with some reason, that there were elements in the total education of either men or women which might be achieved more effectively if they were alone. In addition, some women's colleges were founded because there was a widespread tendency to assume that women were not educable to the same degree as men beyond the first year of high school or the skills needed as assistants in the business enterprise. Vance and Randall and Mt. Holyoke were begun to prove that such attitudes were unjustified. (The fact that Benedictines get the same range of grades as Johnians in courses at SJU seems to destroy this canard finally.)

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Idzerda publishes an article in 1969 in both alum magazines, the Fall Saint Benedict's Today and the Saint John's Magazine

1969 Fall *Saint Benedict's Today* (also published in *Saint John's Magazine*)

Saint Ben's and Saint John's: "Why Should We Travel Together?"

by Dr. Stanley J. Morde



Are Saint John's University and the College of Saint Benedict going somewhere together? Yes. Where are we going? That's not exactly clear, but, like a pair of pilgrims continuing along a new road, the two of us are going forward with a sense of adventure, trepidation and hope.

The road we are traveling together has a number of sign posts: "Cooperation," "Coordination," "Co-Institutional," "Co-Education." If you don't like the sound or flavor of one of those words, choose a couple of the others, just so long as you keep the prefix meaning "with" or "together."

Why should we travel together? Ten years of educational collaboration between the two colleges has been motivated by a number of opportunities and needs which vary with the times. Yet, one reason for our union of efforts remains constant: we want to provide a richer, more diverse curriculum, we wish the setting for learning to be more varied, and the learning experience to be more fruitful. We want a wider range of facilities and resources and more numerous faculty available for each person in each college. In brief, the continued stress of our commitment has been the welfare, the growth, the development, etc. of each student in the separate colleges. If we succeed in that, we have served our small mission.

Today's college education is more demanding than the past, but it needs graduates not less demanding times. Therefore, if we offer the combined facilities and facilities of St. Ben's and St. John's to every student in both schools, we assume that the whole set of course offerings will at least be more richly patterned and widely ranging, and that the additional faculty bring wider experience and different training to the teaching of students from both schools.

So, several years ago, we concluded that we should have an identical academic calendar (without it, how do you really enroll students on the other campus?). As we joined in a common calendar,

we started a calendar neither school had followed earlier, the 4-1-4 plan, where the young man or woman takes 4 courses in the fall, one in January and 4 in the spring.

The enrollment of men and women on the "other" campus each semester has grown. The buses between the two colleges are packed. Last spring 800 students were enrolled in courses on the two campuses. The student response is good and the faculty seem convinced that the exchange is good for the student.

Even while it is self evident that the students' educational opportunities are enhanced and made more vital owing to the cooperation between SJU and CSB, we must grant that even the best intentioned rarely act from a single motive. We should acknowledge that the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's found it worthwhile to join forces for at least two additional reasons: sex and money.

It's hard to say which of those two subjects humanity finds more fascinating or troublesome, but let's talk about sex first. For more than a century, much of higher education was based upon the supposition that men and women were most effectively educated when the sexes were separated. The opposite sex was not to be engaged in a common education because it was, at the least, a distracting element. Also, it was assumed, with some reason, that there were elements in the total education of either men or women which might be achieved more effectively if they were alone. In addition, some women's colleges were founded because there was a widespread tendency to assume that women were not educable to the same degree as men beyond the first year of high school or the skills needed as assistants in the business enterprise. Vassar and Barnard and Mt. Holyoke were begun to prove that such attitudes were unjustified. (The fact that Benet's got the same range of grades as Johnnies in courses at SJU seems to destroy this canard finally.)

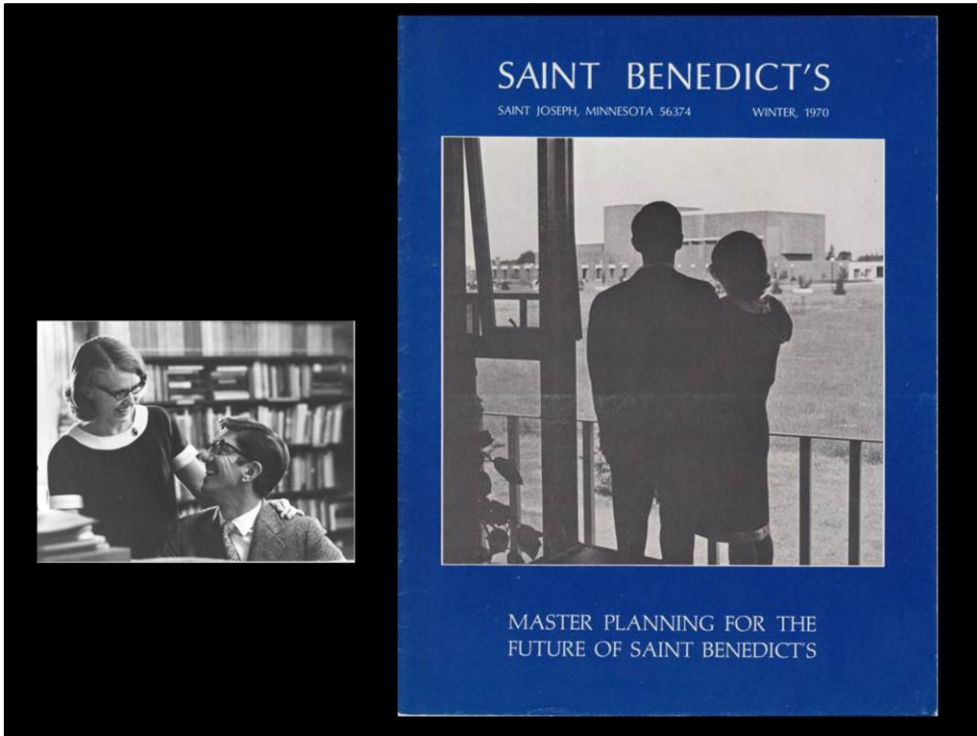
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It's hard to say which of those two subjects humanity finds more fascinating or troublesome, but let's talk about sex first.

"Our current separate but co-ordinate arrangement happily permits the student to alternate at his or her own discretion from a world of all men, all women, or a mix of both."

1969 Fall Saint Benedict's Today (also published in Saint John's Magazine)

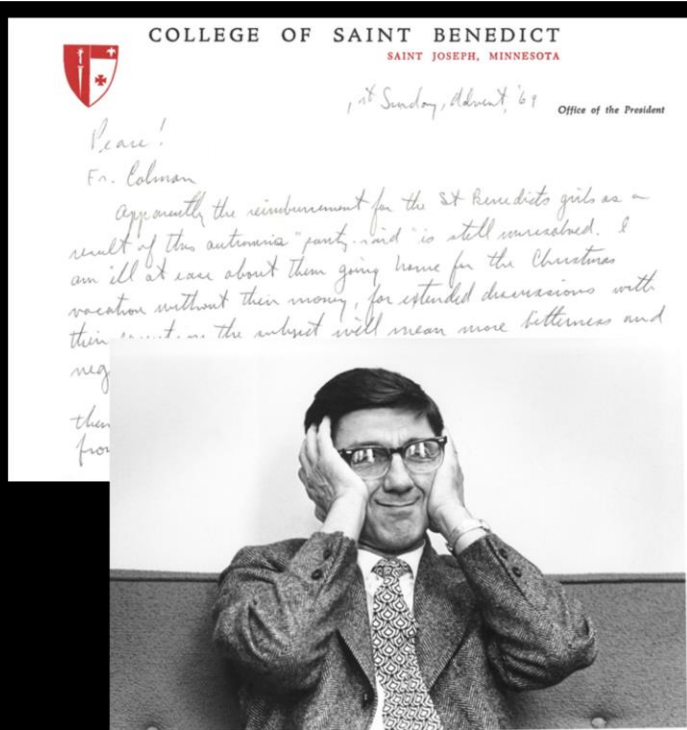
1969 Fall Saint Benedict's Today (also published in Saint John's Magazine)



1970 *Saint Benedict's Magazine*

**1969 letter to
Fr. Colman Barry**

"Apparently the reimbursement for the St. Benedict's girls as a result of this "panty-raid" is still unresolved. I am ill at ease about them going home for the Christmas vacation without their money, for extended discussions with their parents on the subject will mean more bitterness and negative response to both schools..."



1969 Advent RE panties Box 1960 f4 in the SJU Archives
Photo Sept. 1970 in the CSB Archives



COLLEGE OF SAINT BENEDICT
SAINT JOSEPH, MINNESOTA 56374

March
1972

Part!

Fr. M. Idzerda '72 Office of President

Fr. M.

If this is o.k., we could get it on one page & attach the report of the "Collegeville Nine" to it. It need not be distributed to the CSB faculty, since they've already received the report, and we've had a half-hour discussion of it at a full faculty meeting. I think my own recantation of any interest in the damnable heresy of merger stilled many fluttering hearts in the CSB faculty, and our joint statement attached to the report to the SJU faculty may have the same effect there. My sense of the ridiculous is tickled by the effort we will have to make to prevent the new consultants from making any suggestions will simply make the spectre of merger rise again, but I'm sure it can be managed.

Idzerda

Idzerda, S.J.



"...my own recantation of any interest in the damnable heresy of merger stilled many fluttering hearts in the CSB faculty, and our joint statement...may have the same effect there [at SJU]."

March 17, 1972 letter to Michael Blecker, who had become SJU President in 1971

1972 03 17 593 f1 in the SJU Archives
Photo Dec. 1970 from CSB Archives

the torch

College of St. Benedict
St. Joseph, Minnesota
APRIL 19, 1972
VOL. VII, NO. 10

CSB-SJU: Separate But Cooperating

The end of this academic year will also be the end of Dr. Sylvester Theisen's term as Institutional Coordinator between CSB and SJU. Next Fall he will resume his role of professor in the Sociology Department. His efforts as Institutional Coordinator during the past three years have been directed toward the building of cooperation between the two schools, especially at the departmental level. The initial assumption was that his efforts would lead eventually to a complete legal merger, according to the accepted recommendations made by the Dr. Lewis Mayhew Committee's study of the two campuses in 1967.

The two administrations have accepted Dr. Theisen's recommendation that unification and cooperation have reached the point where the office of Institutional Coordination can be phased out.

gets be unified; that the Educational Policies Committees, Rank and Tenure Committees and Concert and Lecture Committees be unified; that a standing faculty committee on cooperation be established; that the two Academic Deans work more closely together and that the faculties gradually become more unified.

On receiving these proposals, both Administrations noted that their tendency was toward establishing complete unification of the institutions as a single corporate entity under one administration. This was, however, no longer the desire of the trustees. Nor was this a sudden reversal in direction, as in April, 1970, the governing boards had already directed Dr. Theisen to cease efforts toward complete merger but to continue working for departmental unification.

faculty has a separate sense of identity and approach in education. Rather, he would like to find a way of coordinating the faculties, preventing duplication, overlapping and needless tension, yet providing the needed autonomy for each faculty group to play a more personal and intimate part in developing their programs. He wonders if a single institution of 2700 students could still be considered a small liberal arts college.

The chief advantage of separate but cooperating colleges (officially labeled "clustered, federated colleges") as President Iderda sees it, is CSB can and should be a "strong campus where women can discover what they can do" which, with the type of society we live in, could be a very valuable, perhaps necessary, experience.

To find what steps may



Dr. Iderda



President Becker

of the Joint Faculty Coordination Committee concerning the establishment of a pro rata basis of payment and the unification of departmental budgets. He will bring this before the CSB Board of Trustees at their next meeting. President Becker said that he intends to move very slowly and hesitantly until the study is completed, insisting upon sufficient clarity before going beyond the present level of cooperation. He wants to fully understand all the implications of pro rata payment before making any proposal to his board of trustees. (See article on Financial

Balance, Page 3)

Actually, according to Dr. Theisen, faculty members are more directly affected by these matters than the average student since the Registrar and the academic departments are already unified. The question arises as to how much separate identity both school will maintain beyond the difference in general requirements (USP and distribution) when departments and committees are united. Both administrations are looking to the proposed Hill study for possible answers.

Proposal to Hill Foundation for Grant Teresa Laedoweb

The Torch April 1972: Cooperation, not merger

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/132/show/126>



Dr. Katharine Howard
Vice President of Development and Finance
"The purpose of my job is to develop mutual support between the college and alumnae. I try to keep alumnae involved so that they'll support the college for example, through fund raising and volunteer administrative work. I am involved in finding ways to bring alumnae back to the campus and to get alumnae from St. Barn's out into the communities where the alumnae live. In the future, I'm planning work with career placement. I want to find and use alumnae involved in specific careers who could find openings for students needing internships or jobs."



James Saxon
Vice President of Development and Finance
"I don't think I should be here unless we do fairly well in fund raising. That's part of my job. On top of that, I try to manage the financial resources that the college has, whether it's tuition, endowments, gift dollars, or government grants. I try to see that the money is spent most effectively for the benefit of the student.
I think that without those basic objectives, this office could be taken pretty easily. Particularly in the area of development, much development is handled by the Public Information Office. Public information brings visibility to the college, and since that visibility is there we can ask people to support the college. CSB couldn't survive without that outside gift support."



Stanley Idzerda
President
"As president, my job touches the students more like any other faculty member's, chiefly by the style of life that I exemplify, more than anything else. I think that's true of all teachers and administrators. Our responsibilities lie in what ways we are responsive to creation, to each other and to ourselves. As for the rest, (Dr. Idzerda pointed to his desk), I just shuffle these papers around."

From the student newspaper

**Stanley Idzerda
President**

"As president, my job touches the students' lives like any other faculty member's: chiefly by the style of life that I exemplify, more than anything else. I think that's true of all teachers and administrators. Our responsibilities lie in what ways we are responsive to creation, to each other and to ourselves. As for the rest, (Dr. Idzerda pointed to his desk), I just shuffle these papers around."

... CSB administrators discuss duties



Dr. Kristin Matley
Director of Development
"I am responsible for writing grant proposals to private foundations to ask for grants for programs which the college has established as priorities. One aspect is lot of time writing proposals for government support. In addition to writing the proposal, it is my responsibility to keep everybody concerned informed about what proposals are being prepared for private foundations.
My job is to focus on seeking foundation support in a way that we have never had anybody here to do before. It's not my job to draft up programs for which we could find funding, but to be a service person to the faculty member who would administer the program. I'm really responsible for working with faculty and administrators who have ideas for programs for which we might find grant support from private foundations."



Michael Ryan
Director of Student Services
"As Director of Student Services, I am responsible for admissions, career planning and placement, financial aid, and student discipline. I'm also responsible for all college living."

...but there was more to it than shuffling papers, as the events of April 1972 showed!

1973 November Vitae p. 5

MEMO TO: Trustees and College Councils

FROM: Stanley J. Idzerda

DATE: March 28, 1972

SUBJECT: Angela Davis

The Black Student Union of CSB and SJU has rented the Benedicta Arts Center Auditorium for April 5 in order to provide a stage for speakers on behalf of Angela Davis. They are selling tickets for the event, and the assumption is that any surplus after rental expenses will go to defray the trial costs of Miss Davis.

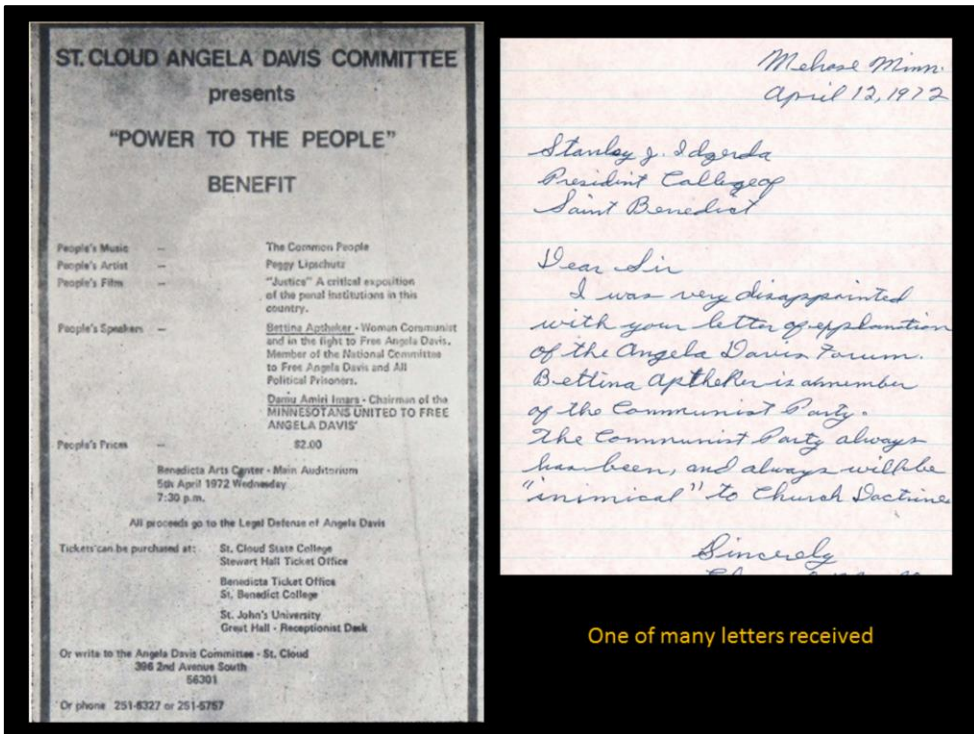
The event will almost certainly get news coverage, and will just as certainly invite adverse criticism of the College. If there is a danger of such criticism, why do we permit such a meeting? This memo will give you some of my own rationale.

1. The event is sponsored by our own students. Unless there is evidence that the chief motive is to embarrass the College, I think we should support our students as students when they wish to pursue public issues on campus. This does not mean the College will permit a student-sponsored meeting which would encourage mayhem, advocate illegal actions, or sponsor positions inimical to church doctrine.
2. The students are concerned about a fair trial for Angela Davis. As black Americans, they are more aware of the findings of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission than the rest of us. Thus, they know that there is a great deal of evidence indicating how difficult it is for a non-white American to receive equitable treatment within our law enforcement and judicial system.
3. It has been objected that Miss Davis is a criminal and a professed Communist. The only civilized response is that she is on trial, and in this country she must be presumed innocent until convicted. If she is a Communist, she is a member of a party which is still legal in the United States.
4. The larger concerns are: What are the limits and boundaries for persons on this campus with whom a majority disagree? If our students understand they will be protected or defended from every major controversial figure, then they will assume both the campus and the classroom are exercises in unreality and we will soon have no students.



**March 28, 1972
memo to the
Trustees
concerning the
April 5 campus
visit by activist
Angela Davis**

1972 03 28 Idzerda to Trustees in the CSB Archives, AC 05.10 Box 1
Photo from 1974 Nov. 1 p. 4 *The Record*
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?CSBArchNews,34896>



1972 April 14 p. 3 *The Record*

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/34786/show/34784>

ST. CLOUD ANGELA DAVIS COMMITTEE
presents
"POWER TO THE PEOPLE"
BENEFIT

People's Music — The Common People
People's Artist — Peggy Lipschutz
People's Film — "Justice" A critical exposition of the penal institutions in this country.

People's Speakers —
Santina Archuleta - Woman Communist and in the fight to Free Angela Davis.
Member of the National Committee to Free Angela Davis and All Political Prisoners.
Doris Aniel Ingers - Chairman of the MINNESOTANS UNITED TO FREE ANGELA DAVIS

People's Time — 82.00

Benedicta Arts Center - Main Auditorium
5th April 1972 Wednesday
7:30 p.m.

All proceeds go to the Legal Defense of Angela Davis

Tickets can be purchased at: St. Cloud State College
Stewart Hall Ticket Office
Benedicta Ticket Office
St. Benedict College
St. John's University
Great Hall - Receptionist Desk

Or write to the Angela Davis Committee - St. Cloud
306 2nd Avenue South
56301

Or phone 251-6327 or 251-6787

Rally Reaction: "Highway '51' Revisited"

By Steve Smith

On Wednesday, April 5, the Black Student Union sponsored a benefit program for Angela Davis at the Benedicta Arts Center. The BAC had been rented to the BSU for the evening. On the program were an artist, a singing group, and several speakers; one of whom was Betina Aphelker, a member of the Communist Party.

Two days before the event an ad appeared in the St. Cloud *Times* accusing St. Ben's of "turning deaf ear to pope's' decrees while collaborating with Communism." Liberally sprinkled with quotations from various popes, the ad was placed by "Catholics Opposed to Co-operation with Communism." The same day, two letters appeared in the *Times* attacking the rally. One Eileen Stockinger said Communists were being allowed to "contaminate the immature minds of our young." The other letter, from Ken Zylla, chairman of the "Catholics Opposed..." group, accused area Catholic colleges of sponsoring and promoting Communism. A letter from St. Ben's President Stanley Idzerda, sent after the editor of the *Times* had informed him of the trouble, defended the right of the BSU to hold the program on a Catholic campus. He said that it was better that the major issues be discussed in a "thoughtful, rational Christian Catholic setting, rather than clandestinely or through secular gossip and hearsay."

Despite the usual crank phone calls and several piles of bricks left outside the BAC the day of the program, attached to which were notes with such statements as "we will bury you" (evidently they ran out of attendance. After assuring the group that she did not intend to overthrow the U.S. government that evening, Ms. Aphelker said that "the fact that a meeting like this could take place in St. Cloud, Minnesota, is a testament to the fact that times are changing."

The next day another ad appeared in the *Times*, asking "If you are supporting St. Ben's or St. John's, are you in reality aiding Communism?" In the interests of finding out more

ad, I arranged an interview with Chairman Ken Zylla. And so on Saturday, April 8, we met around a kitchen table to discuss Communism and Catholicism at the home of Ron Baert. Mr. Baert, chief theoretician of the movement, answered all of the questions.

I first asked him what the nature and purpose of the group was. "It was a very spontaneous thing," he said. A lot of people were concerned about what has been happening "out there," he told me, and one woman in the group has even recorded Communist broadcasts from the St. John's FM station. "It reaches a point where you have to do something." And so ten or 12 people got together to form the group, and placed the ad in the paper. (He later told me that their group had nothing to do with the second ad.)

Baert then produced a booklet from a closet full of pamphlets, titled "Atheistic Communism," an encyclical of Pius XI published in 1937. "It's something that every student, priest, and nun out there should read." The purpose of the group is to publicize the Church's teachings according to the "highest authority—the various popes."

I asked him if he thought that Pope Paul VI was collaborating with Communism by entertaining Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko at the Vatican last year, or by recalling Stefan Cardinal Mindzenty from Hungary. He said that although you must be careful to make statements—"you don't know what his (Paul's) reasons is"—he imagined that the Pope was making "concessions" out of concern for the welfare of Catholics in Communist countries. "The Pope," he added, "is not infallible—except in matters of faith and morals." (We might point out that none of the Papal quotes cited in the ad were *ex cathedra*, and therefore not "infallible.")

He was asked for his reaction to Idzerda's letter. "I don't think that he justified his position," Baert said, and "he shouldn't shift the blame." The section of the letter which stated that it is better that issues be discussed openly Baert likened to a situation where St. John's would have prostitutes on campus, because

anyway.

In view of the fact that the BAC was rented, did he still think the institutions were sponsoring and promoting Communism? "It does lend prestige to it," he said, having such a program on a Catholic campus. I asked him why he thought it was a Communist program, since Angela Davis, not Communism, was the subject. He replied that "Communists have traditionally used martyrs to raise funds for Communist Party coffers." That "is no proof for this case—but it lends suspicion. Do they disclose their finances?"

He said, "I'm not trying to condemn Idzerda—but we must condemn the action." Idzerda's motives for allowing it are "between himself and God."

The subject of free speech came up. He said that there are limitations on the right—"you have to be responsible." A query about who determined what was or was not responsible brought no reply. Parents "guard and shield their children from temptations," and religious institutions should too.

Going again to his closet arsenal of pamphlets and literature, he produced a tape of a conversation of "Communist" groups, with which he demonstrated not only that "Women's Liberation is a Communist front," but also that these movements are part of an "international conspiracy." Communist terminology came up, and he said that the term "political prisoner," used to describe Angela Davis, was Communist inspired. I pointed out that the Stearns County DFL passed a resolution calling for the release of all political prisoners, and that was not Communist inspired. He told me not to be so sure.

He closed the interview with an admission that we are "getting the sugar-coated version" from the speakers, and reiterated their deceitfulness. He then gave me the pamphlet "Atheistic Communism" to keep and to cherish.

When we were walking out, the interview with Ken Zylla (remember him?) began. "I will always believe," I said, "that my group, no matter who they are, has the right to come on campus and speak." "Well," he

1972 April 14 p. 3 of *The Record*

1972 April 14 p. 3 *The Record*

<http://cdm.csbju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/34786/show/34784>

(4-14-72)

Peace!

Dear Andy (Hilger)

You'll find a summary of the Angela Davis affair enclosed. Thanks to your alertness and sense of fair play, Fred Barry was able to give a radio news account which I thought was in the best tradition of balanced reporting, and I thought the Party Line callers were approached with similar balance and aplomb by Mike Diem.

Despite the fact that it was a good feeling to discover where St. Ben's friends are, I'd not like a repetition of such an event soon.

Yours,

Stan

Att: copy of letter fo Fred Barry by news service office over S.J.I. signature 4-10-72

Stan's note to Andy Hilger, radio station owner (and Catholic)

AC 05.10 Box1 CSB Archives

We were sorry to hear that we failed in our attempt to clarify the recent appearance of a speaker on behalf of Angela Davis at the Benedicta Arts Center.

You are quite correct in observing that Church doctrine has in the past opposed Communistic teachings, as evidenced in the Pope Pius XI encyclical Divini Redemptoris (1937). However, what may have escaped your attention are more recent encyclicals by Popes John XXIII and Paul VI--those written after World War II, and more importantly, since Vatican II. The following quote from Documents of Vatican II, p. 311 may better serve to clarify the issue: "It is strikingly consistent with Pope John's initial concern that the Council not issue condemnations and anathemas, that the present document, rather than engaging in anti-Communist diatribes, seeks ways in which dialogue can be fostered between men of differing convictions."

April 28, 1972
Page two

do feel it our obligation and duty to observe current teaching and Church dogma. Probably the most accurate appraisal is the following quote from Pacem in Terris, 1963, p. 299-300:

Respect and love ought to be extended also to those who think and act differently than we do in social, political and religious matters, too...

God alone is the judge and searcher of hearts; for that reason He forbids us to make judgments about the internal guilt of anyone.

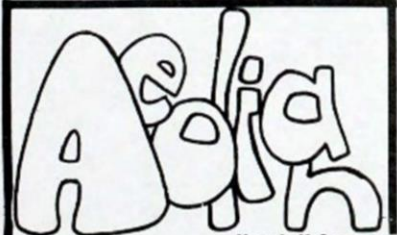
Yours, in Christ,

Stanley J. Idzerda
President

Stan's response to one of the outraged Catholic citizens of central Minnesota



Letter from Idzerda Angela Davis file, AC 05.10 Box1 CSB Archives; photo from SBM Archives



Mary A. McCormack

There are some actions which show integrity. One such action was Stanley J. Idzerda's refusal to be intimidated with threat of financial punishment for the recent Angela Davis episode. That "bad publicity is bad for the pocket-book" was surely the premise on which the Catholics Opposed to Cooperating with Communism published full page ads in the *St. Cloud Times* accusing St. Ben's of fostering Communism.

To say that the College "under the guise of academic freedom" is "contaminating the immature minds of our young" is incorrect. The College is exercising the CONSTITUTIONAL right of free speech in support of the CONSTITUTIONAL right of each citizen to a fair trial.

I respect the Catholics Opposed to Cooperation with Communism for the action of expressing what they believe. However, I commend Dr. Idzerda for his courageous action of affirming the rights of students as American citizens.

Support from the students

...and another visit by Ms. Davis two years later:

Record

UNIVERSITY OF ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
DULUTH, MN. 55812 • NOVEMBER 1, 1974

Move

would not exist in a
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with other nations. A year
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for experiencing another
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is not offered to American
nts. The size of the United
s makes travel abroad far
difficult for Americans than
uropeans. It would be far
beneficial to experience
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or a few weeks in middle

oretically, any student or
y member would be able to
advantage of the Chartres
am. Whether this is true in
ce remains to be seen. Dr.
Hughes, chairman of the
stry department, criticized



Angela Davis
to speak
at SJU
Thurs. Nov. 7
Main Auditorium
8:00 p.m.

1972 April 19 p. 5 *The Torch*

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/132/show/130>

1974 Nov. 1 p. 1 *The Record*

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/35048/show/35040>

Angela Davis: Leading the Struggle

By John Arden

"Some of you seem restless. Does any of this make any sense at all?"

After more than an hour of speaking she felt a need to ask the question. The fragile-looking beautiful black woman received some reassurance and continued.

Since she had begun the speech, Angela Davis pounded on the subject of cooperation in the struggle against racism to the overflowing crowd in the SJU main auditorium. But many had become too entangled with her political views or illustrations to grasp the point.

She had started by introducing the National Alliance Against Racism and Repression to the crowd.

"I've been travelling around the country, speaking at campuses trying to get across the message of the struggle which the alliance is attempting to communicate. And often a brother or sister will say, 'your mother was here.' The same thing happened tonight. Brother Charles said 'Back in December of '71 your mother spoke here at a rally.' Where was it? At the BAC."

Only a few years ago there were actually political rallies on this sleepy campus. The Organization of Afro-American Students staged a "Free Angela"

rally on October 31, only a week before the take-over of Fr. Coleman Barry's office. Mrs. Davis spoke in December of 1971 and another Angela Davis rally was held in April of that year. At that time a communist, Bathiena Aptheker, spoke here and Stearns County mentalities objected. There were threats of contribution cutoffs to both schools, and ads were taken out in the St. Cloud Daily TIMES, disapproving of the function.

That was 1971. By 1974 things had changed. No protests were to be found, but there was no great show of support either. Even Angela has toned down her line a bit, leading to some charges of soft peddling.

"If it hadn't been for literally millions of people all over the country, I wouldn't be standing here today. I come to you this evening essentially to speak about a new movement which can set free many other men and women.

"After I was acquitted in '72 as a result of that vast people's movement, we had a victory party. We celebrated for one day and then I said that we couldn't get too happy because we might forget that I was only one of thousands repressed."

This new alliance was formed to "build a coalition of blacks, whites, chicanos, Puerto Ricans,



Photo by John McTigue

workers, students, and even some people from the left wing of the Democratic Party."

She described the types of repression the new group was up against, by reading an FBI memo that planned the destruction of the new left. She also reflected on Watergate.

"I hope that you don't think that because Richard 'I'm not a crook' Nixon is no longer president that things have changed. Because the impact has had an underlying effect on constitutional liberties of all people. It's going to be felt here for years to come."

Angela called Gerald Ford "Only a new face. The policies are in essence the same as Nixon's. It was incredible to me that people were so happy to

"People of color have always received the brunt of the misery and suffering, but white people don't have it so good. We've heard so much about the so-called middle class. Well the middle class isn't so middle anymore."

"Racism is really a monster. It's a terrible disease which affects so many in the country. We have to talk about getting together to stop it. We have to understand that racism is a weapon wielded by those who control the political and economic power used to divide and control us."

The Boston school busing disturbances is a backdrop to emphasize the point. "When I saw all of those angry white people

1974 Nov. 1 p. 4 The Record

1974 Nov. 1 p. 4 The Record

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?CSBArchNews,34896>



Vitaë
student paper
of the College of St. Benedict

Vol. 1, No. 8 St. Joseph, Mn. 56374 March 7, 1974



Dr. Idzerda to leave CSB in June

At a meeting yesterday afternoon of the Board of Trustees, CSB president Dr. Stanley Idzerda announced his decision to accept a special assignment at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

As a result of that announcement, the board is taking steps to select a person to replace Dr. Idzerda as president of the college.

At Cornell, Dr. Idzerda will be editing the historical and personal papers of the Marquis de Lafayette. The papers are to be published by the U.S. National Archives in conjunction with the United States bicentennial celebration.

Several scholars were commissioned by the National Archives to select an editor for the

papers. They asked Dr. Idzerda to accept the task because of his background in eighteenth-century American and French history, which will enable him to edit the Lafayette papers with a historical and personal sensitivity.

Dr. Idzerda became president of the College of St. Benedict in 1968. Under his leadership, enrollment at the college has more than doubled. 12 new academic programs have been added, a "Quality of Human Life" program established, and several buildings on campus constructed or renovated.

A letter from Sr. Nora Luetmer, chairwoman of the Board of Trustees, was distributed to the

college community on March 1 announcing Dr. Idzerda's plans. In that letter, Dr. Idzerda was quoted as saying, "I have never been happier or more 'at home' with myself and my setting in my adult life than I have been with the Sisters of St. Benedict in St. Joseph. However, a clear challenge of a sort uniquely and peculiarly suited to my background and capacities is a call I cannot lightly ignore. When the task is finished I shall seek to return here in some capacity."

Dr. Idzerda is unable to predict how long it will take to edit the Lafayette papers. The Board of Trustees has not made an official statement in response to Dr. Idzerda's plans or his announced desire to return to CSB.

Vitaë March 7, 1974, p. 1

1974 March 7 *Vitaë*, p.1 "Dr. Idzerda to leave CSB in June"
 Photo from the SBM Archives

Stanley Idzerda: "I feel I belong here"

by Mary Kay Melcher

Editor's note: CSB president Dr. Stanley Idzerda officially announced yesterday his plans to accept a special assignment as editor of the papers of the Marquis de Lafayette, to be published by the Cornell University Press in conjunction with the U.S. bicentennial celebration. As a result, Dr. Idzerda will be leaving CSB in June to work at Cornell in Ithaca, New York. In an interview with the college president, VITAE asked Dr. Idzerda to speculate about his new job and reflect on his old one.

VITAE: How does your background in history make you qualified for editing these papers?

The National Historical Publications Commission needs someone who has some sense of the history of the eighteenth century in the West: America, the Atlantic civilization . . . someone who has some sense of the personalities and issues involved, and also of how to explicate and reveal a person's personality and motivation through his personal papers.

The papers are at Cornell University. There are about 17 thousand papers in all, all kinds. The question is, which of those papers do you select to put together a coherent story—because the title of the volumes will be "Lafayette and the American Revolution."

VITAE: When will the papers be published?

Hopefully, in 1976, '77 or '78. It's hard to say how long this will take or how many volumes until you sort of bury yourself in the papers for six or seven months.

VITAE: The papers will be published as part of the U.S. bicentennial

seriously among our founding fathers. At the age of 20, he came to the United States (he bought his own ship; he was a millionaire nobleman) and asked for a commission to serve for the cause of liberty in the revolutionary army. And so, he became a major general, fought, and was wounded at Brandywine. He spent some time at Valley Forge during that dreadful winter. Then he went back to France and spent a lot of effort convincing the French government that they should join us. When he came back he ended up at Yorktown at the final surrender of the British. Then he went back to France. When he came back again to the United States, he made a tour to support the ratification of the constitution.

He named his only son George Washington Lafayette. Lafayette represents the effort of France to come to the side of the infant republic.

VITAE: How will this new job effect your present position at CSB?

I have asked the Board of Trustees to replace me in the presidency and to give me an extended leave of absence. This is what I consider home.

VITAE: What attracts you to CSB?

I respond to two things here: relationships with persons, and the weather. I've never been anywhere in my adult life where I have felt more at ease, more mutual support, more responsiveness to one another than here. I am most comfortable in the Benedictine tradition that I find in the upper midwest . . . I don't want to tinker with that



Photos by Trish Boeke

VITAE: On campus, you're known for your biking and your singing. Will you take these habits with you to Cornell?

I'm not sure that I'm going to be doing much singing there . . . I don't sing self-consciously . . . it's the way I respond when I feel I'm completely at home. I feel I belong here, and there are not many people on this earth who are lucky enough to feel they belong someplace. What a

quite different. It won't be as humanly fulfilling. There will be two associate editors, who are librarians, and the 17-thousand documents. I think, though, it is something that I ought to do. As I said to one of my friends, this is not a set of books that will end up on the remainder table at 49 cents a volume. It should be, God willing, a permanent scholarly contribution to our understanding of ourselves.

1974 March 7 *Vitae*, p. 8 - Idzerda Interview

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Secondly, I like the weather in this part of the world. I like the Christmas, the sunshine, the definiteness of the seasons; I especially like the sunshine.

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1974 March 7 *Vitae*, p. 8 - Idzerda Interview
Photo Sept. 1970 from the CSB Archives

"...Dr. Idzerda is a man who found time to be himself and ...to be with his students.

...Somehow, he found time to house students in his own home when dorms were crowded...

...to ride his bike under the open library windows on spring evenings, booming out 'To Be Alive' in that unmistakable bass..."

Vitae March 7, 1974, p. 8

Stanley Idzerda: "I feel I belong here"

By Mary Kay Wehrer

Stanley Idzerda, president of the Vitae staff, actually announced his plans to leave a previous position in Lafayette, La. He is currently in the United States and is expected to return to Lafayette, La. in the next few weeks. Dr. Idzerda is currently in the United States and is expected to return to Lafayette, La. in the next few weeks.

VITAE: How does your background in Lafayette relate to your current position at CSB?

Dr. Idzerda: I have been in Lafayette, La. for about 17 years. I was in the Lafayette area for about 17 years. I was in the Lafayette area for about 17 years.

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Photo by Tom Stone



Dr. and Mrs. Idzerda

Stanley Idzerda: no ordinary president

One from day in January, one of the Vitae staff members was giving the message and in the CSB library, suddenly she was startled by an arm extended around her waist. One turned around to face CSB president Stanley Idzerda, he had just left for a while. "Come to sit by the fire awhile and read with me," he said.

Dr. Idzerda, now, had a few minutes of an ordinary college president would not come to his college, he could never in relation to his speech that with a smile in CSB statistics, everything from the latest enrollment figures to education in college-student forms. The College of St. Benedict entered in the six years it was run under his hand.

But beyond his appearance as an administrator, Dr. Idzerda impressed us most as a man who found time to be himself and especially to be with his students. Somehow, he found time to house students in his own home when dorms were crowded... to ride his bike under the open library windows on spring evenings, booming out "To Be Alive" in that unmistakable bass. He will launch once a week with CSB members to meet students so he could call many by name when he distributed communion at 10:30 Sunday mass... to hug his wife in the halls... and yet to be by Vitae staff members in the library and more.

It is not necessary to list again, Stanley Idzerda's accomplishments as college president in concrete terms of buildings built and programs done. His contributions to CSB in those areas are known for their quantity and quality.

But it is in his those other, "special" moments with him that we get glimpses of Stanley Idzerda, man. And when he leaves for Cornell that night, it is in those other moments that we will miss him most.

THE VITAE STAFF

1974 March 7 Vitae, p. 8 - Idzerda Interview



student paper of the College of St. Benedict
Vol. 10, No. 12 — St. Joseph, Minnesota — May 16, 1974

Unexpected restrictions complicate schooling

Editors Note: Copies of a CSB foreign exchange student form being filled out by students are being submitted to the U.S. Department of State for review. The purpose is to grant students the right to work in foreign countries and many of the foreign students are in professional programs.

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Familiarity breeds advise content

"They reacted as strongly at the beginning of the year as they did on the floor," said Pat Duffin, secretary.

"The advisor reacts with respect to their advisors, to be positive to each other and to be ready to meet someone's needs."

"The most advantage for me is the fact that I have become a member of the staff."

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President departs

Dr. Stanley J. Idzerda, educator, scholar and fifth president of CSB will leave CSB sometime this June to edit the Lafayette papers at Cornell University. Dr. Idzerda's six years at the college are highlighted by numerous new academic programs, a greatly enlarged student body and many new campus buildings. The Presidential Search Committee hope to announce their choice of a successor by June 14.

Photos by Trish Boeke

Vitae May 16, 1974, p. 1



Dick Schroeder

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Diane Albrecht

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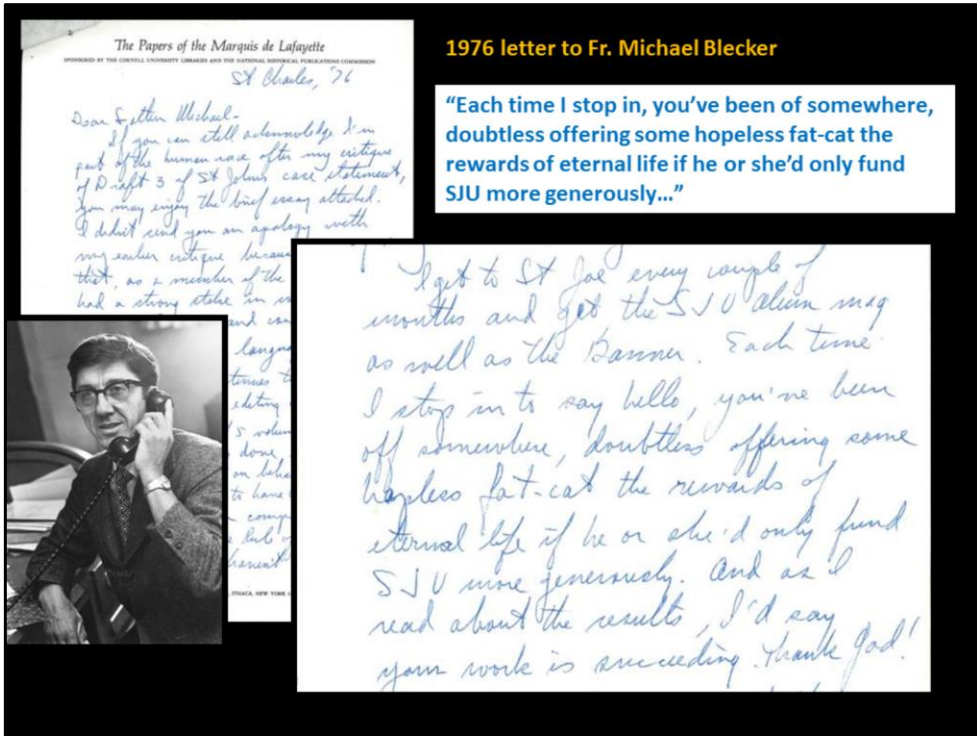
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1974 May 16, Vitae, p. 1 "President Departs"



1976 letter Box1995 f3 in the SJU Archives
 Photo Sept. 1970 in CSB Archives

To Stanley J. Idzerda,
Editor-in-chief of the papers
of the Marquis de Lafayette,
who is demonstrating
that in our century
an historian can still be a Christian humanist—
who, as he ponders
the traits, the words, the actions
of the founders of the United States of America,
learns and teaches
as did the Venerable Bede,
who twelve centuries ago
reminded his readers
that history tells good of good men
to encourage imitation
and evil of evil men to move him who hears or reads
“to follow more zealously the things
he knows to be good and worthy of God,”
the College of Saint Benedict
offers grateful tribute.

March 27, 1976 Saint Joseph, Minnesota

1976

Hand calligraphied tribute from
CSB upon publication of the
LaFayette Papers

From SBMArchives

wood St. The ancient punishment device that put offenders on public

Alleluia! Professor Idzerda is back

By Sylvia Lang
Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — The day was calm, the sky blue, the trees lovely, and professor Stanley Idzerda, red knapsack slung over shoulder, was smiling and singing "alleluia" as he strolled across the College of St. Benedict campus.

"I feel open here," he said. "When my soul wants to sing, I sing. No one here will think I am crazy."

Idzerda, a former St. Benedict's president, has returned to the college after a five-year absence to teach freshman history classes.

He was pulled away temporarily by the U.S. Archives, which asked him to go to Cornell University in New York and edit the papers of the Revolutionary War figure, Marquis de Lafayette.

But now, said Idzerda, "the only time I will leave St. Benedict's again is when I am placed in my grave."

Idzerda, 39, was named the first lay president of the Catholic women's college in 1968. Within four years, the school's enrollment more than doubled, and it continued growing to its current level of 1,635.

He helped establish new programs in nursing,

East Asian studies, physical therapy and liberal studies. He also helped develop the school's institutional long-range plan called "Directions for the Future."

IDZERDA ADMITS, however, that he doesn't miss administrative work. "Now I can go to the president (Sister Emmanuel Renner) and ask for maps. Yes, we need maps in the History Department!"

He believes it is why I want to be here. They know one else can."

Idzerda is slim and thick with hair, up smoking, and such a brisk pace keep up.

The ingredients, exercise, rest. Typically, he works an hour and job. Then he may work with colleagues of

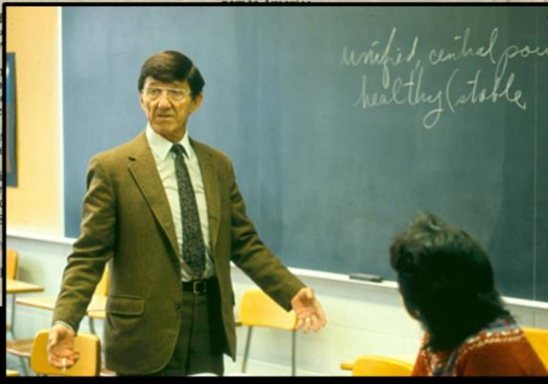
AT NOON, HE breaks bread Joseph home. At He was asked prepared for col

"Students are lazy, ignorant and illiterate, and they always have been. And thank God for that or I would be out of a job!" exclaimed the educator of 32 years.

In his lectures, he constantly ties in what happened 200 or 300 years ago with what is happening now. On this particular day, he lectured about the 13 original colonies and told students that violence is



Idzerda



1979 10 29 StP PPress p.21 Box1659 f14 in the SJU Archives

Whereas,

Mother Henrita Osendorf invited Dr. Stanley Idzerda, Academic Dean of Wesleyan University, to consider the presidency of the College of Saint Benedict in Spring 1968; and

Whereas, Dr. Idzerda's firm "No" to this challenge became an ardent "Yes" after participating in a festive liturgy with the monastic community; and

Whereas, the acceptance of the position of President of the College of Saint Benedict meant Stanley and Gerry Idzerda and their seven children learned to live on a greatly reduced salary; and

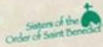
Whereas, the unbounded enthusiasm and optimism of a bicycle-riding President Idzerda spilled over into the daily living of all in the community; and

Whereas, the firm belief of President Idzerda in the Benedictine tradition, strengths of the liberal arts education of the College resulted in immense during his six-year tenure: new academic programs; doubling of the endowment; building projects; overseas study programs; an increase of outside support; the recognition of the legacy of the College of Saint Benedict as a women's college with a future, and much more; and

Whereas, the commitment to and living out of the Benedictine values of stability, balance, and hospitality have made Stan and his wife Gerry and their children, precious friends, neighbors, and Oblates during their many years among us; and

Whereas, a statement made by Stan many years ago rings with truth: "The climate of mutual concern, of measured sanity, and of shared joy is central to the meaning of this community as a place where old and young care for each other."

Be it resolved that Dr. Stanley J. Idzerda be named an honorary member of Saint Benedict's Monastery on July 29, 2012.



**August 2013:
Stan is named an
honorary member of
Saint Benedict's Monastery**



*Your way of acting should be
different from the world's way;*

Brother Stan Idzerda

to pray for the needs of the
Monastic Community and
the College of Saint Benedict.

*Michaela Sheehan, OSB
Prioress*

The love of Christ must come before all else.

August 2013

RB 4-20-21

In Loving Memory Of
STANLEY J. "STAN" IDZERDA

June 4, 1920 ~ August 6, 2013

Funeral Service
Sacred Heart Chapel, St. Benedict's Monastery
St. Joseph, Minnesota
Saturday, August 17, 2013 ~ 11:00 A.M.

Officiating Clergy
Father Hilary Thimmesch, OSB
Prioress Michaela Hedican, OSB
President MaryAnn Baenninger, PhD

Casket Bearers
Family Members
Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict
and College of St. Benedict

Interment
St. Benedict's Monastery Cemetery
St. Joseph, Minnesota

Arrangements By
~
Daniel Funeral Home
St. Cloud



Stanley was born on June 4, 1920, in Brooklyn, New York, to Hendrik Idzerda and Teresa (Kempf) Idzerda. He served in the United States Navy from 1940 through 1946. He married Geraldine Waters of Sharon Center, Ohio on October 26, 1945 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Akron, OH.

Stan earned a PhD in history at Western Reserve University in 1951. Thereafter, he served as a scholar, teacher and administrator in several universities until 1968, when he was named president of the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph. Following the end of his term as president in 1974, he served as a faculty member in the College until his retirement in 1990. Stan was an Oblate of St. Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph.

Funeral card; photo from SBMArchives

The Papers of the Marquis de Lafayette

SPONSORED BY THE CORNELL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES AND THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS COMMISSION

STANLEY J. IDZERDA, *Editor*
PHYLLIS S. PESTIEAU, *Assistant Editor*
LINDA J. PIKE, *Editorial Assistant*

Peace!

F east of St George '75
in route, Iowa City

Dear Father Michael -

I've been meaning to write to thank you for the way you and your community responded to Bill Perlmutter's last days. Not that it surprised me. It was simply another demonstration that it's not only great to live with the Benedictines; it's an even greater blessing to die among them.

**"...it's not only great to live with the Benedictines,
it's an even greater blessing to die among them."**

1975 letter to Fr. Michel Blecker

1975 letter Box1995 f3_Page_2 in the SJU Archives

Compiled in September 2013
from resources in the
Archives of CSB, SJU and St.
Benedict's Monastery by
Peggy Landwehr Roske,
CSB/SJU Archivist.
All rights reserved.



1972 at pool groundbreaking, or 1974 at dedication

Six of CSB's Presidents – July 11, 2005



From SBMArchives