

SPIRITUS 'MAGIS'

150 YEARS OF ST. IGNATIUS COLLEGE PREPARATORY

BY PAUL TOTAH '75

For SI's sesquicentennial, the Winter, Spring and Summer issues of Genesis IV, offer excerpts from a new history of SI, which will be available for sale at the June 4, 2005, Day on the Boulevard Celebration.

This second installment explores how SI's academic, extracurricular and athletic traditions took root in the 1920s and flourished through the 1950s as SI moved to new quarters on Stanyan Street.

VI. THE FOUNDATION OF TRADITIONS (1920–1929)

The Jesuits Move North to Welch Hall

In 1920 the Jesuits benefited again from the generosity of Mrs. Bertha Welch, who built a residence hall for the priests adjacent to the church. Rather than donate funds to the Jesuits, she oversaw construction herself as while she was “altogether genuinely fond of the Fathers, as she had shown abundantly in the past, she was not overly convinced of their business acumen....”¹

The former Jesuit residence in the Shirt Factory was turned into classrooms, and the Jesuits expanded the science labs, which while improving the school, also moved it further into debt. Two massive fund-raisers, the May Festival, held in 1921 and 1924, took place in the Civic Auditorium, and the SI Jesuits managed to repay a \$100,000 loan to the Hibernia Bank.

(Jesuits in both the college and high school communities lived together in Welch Hall from 1921 until 1959 when the USF Jesuits moved to Xavier Hall. The Jesuits teaching at the high school stayed at Welch until 1969 when they moved to McGucken Hall in the Sunset District campus. Welch Hall was demolished in 1970 and the open lawn area is now called Welch Field. From all reports, Welch

Hall offered threadbare accommodations, and some of the high school priests in the 1960s perhaps resented the fact that they had to remain there, with its leaking roof, while their college counterparts moved into modern quarters.)

SI's First Two Principals

The high school department in 1924 was led for the first time not by the college president but by a principal. The first principal, Fr. Cornelius Buckley, SJ, ran the school from 1924 to 1926, presiding over a faculty of 11 Jesuits and 12 laymen.

Fr. Buckley graduated from SI's preparatory department in 1890 and two years later from SI College. He joined the Society of Jesus in Los Gatos and, after studies in Spokane, returned to SI to teach briefly before leaving to continue his studies in Italy and England. He was ordained in 1908 in Dublin and returned to the Bay Area where he served as dean of students at SCU (1912–1922) and as a teacher of novices (1922–1924) before becoming SI's first principal. He served as a history professor at USF from 1926 until 1935 when heart trouble forced him into early retirement from the classroom. From 1936



From left: Fr. Thomas Martin, SJ, Fr. Willima LeVasseur, SJ, & Fr. Albert Whelan, SJ, SI's second principal. Fr. Whelan was a no-nonsense disciplinarian whom students had no desire to cross.

until his death, he served as Regent of the USF Law School and as spiritual director of several San Francisco convents.

After his death on January 20, 1947, the following obituary appeared in the *Province News* of the California Province of the Society of Jesus: “Fr. Buckley was a well educated man, both in secular and religious subjects. He was an excellent teacher, and a very popular confessor. In 1946 he heard 18,000 confessions.” He used to voice his disapproval of the training that Jesuit seminarians were receiving. “He did this once too often, for the Provincial, Fr. Francis Dillon in 1922, sent him to Los Gatos [for more formation] to remedy the situation.”

The author of the obituary noted that Fr. Buckley usually submitted his reports on SI to the Province office late. “The only difficulty was to get the report on time. He was usually one to two years late. Strange to tell, he was up to date when death called him.”

Succeeding Fr. Buckley was Fr. Albert Whelan, SJ, the younger brother of Fr. Edward Whelan, SJ, president of St. Ignatius College. Of Fr. Albert Whelan, McGloin writes the following of this “Prefect of Studies” — another term for principal: “Those who remember the Albert Whelan regime recall that he ran what perhaps may best be described as a ‘tight ship’ — for he was a disciplinarian par excellence and tolerated little in the way of infractions.”

Ken Atwell '29 remembered one incident that illustrates this quality: “One day, after seeing a disturbance in the hallway, Fr. Whelan rushed out and pinned the suspected ringleader to the bulletin board by the neck. The trouble is, he chose the wrong boy. The next day, that boy’s father, a wealthy physician showed up and proceeded to tell Fr. Whelan what he thought of him and the institution. He told Fr. Whelan, ‘If you take off that collar, I’ll give you a whipping.’ Fr. Whelan ripped the collar off, but the doctor turned around and left.”

Athletics: SI Wins its First State Title

SI’s basketball teams enjoyed great success in the 1920s. By 1921, SI took first in the city in the 145-pound division with a 67–1 victory over Mission. The unlimited (or varsity) team of 1922, led by “Scotchey” Hamilton and “Goat” Turner, went undefeated to win the league title. In the 1925–26 academic year, Frank Needles led the 145 team to an 8–0 record

and then asked state officials if his team could compete in the California Interscholastic Federation playoffs for the state championship. He received permission to play and to include members of the unlimited squad as reserves.

In CIF competition, SI beat Tamalpais Union High School (25–17) and Pacific Grove (31–22) before taking to the road to play Palo Alto High School. Standouts such as Tom Feerick and Ray Maloney helped SI win 32–14. Next came Napa on that school’s home court, and SI eked out a 18–16 victory after a tough competition. SI beat Marysville for the Northern California cham-

pionship at a neutral court in San Francisco. Senior George Olsen helped SI take the day with a 34–22 victory. “A group of us went to Napa on a bus to see SI win,” recalls Jack O’Dea ’28. “George Olson intercepted a pass and went for a lay-up to win the game. When we got outside, the Napa fans were so angry that they began taking it out on us, riding their motorcycles through our crowd.”

Next, on April 3, 1926, came Lemoore, the best team from Southern California. SI won 20–11 in what

proved to be the lowest-scoring state championship game in California history. It was also the first state championship for any SI (and San Francisco) team, but not the last; in the 1990s, SI’s cross country, crew and lacrosse teams would earn state titles.

SI would continue to shine in basketball, with another league championship in 1927 when the unlimited team beat Galileo 21–18. The Depression would eventually cause SI to reduce the number of teams to four — the 110, 120, 130 and varsity), but they would not enjoy league supremacy again until 1943.

Football

In 1923, the school hired Jimmy Needles, (“one of the leading half-backs of the Pacific Coast,” according to the September 13, 1923, *Red and Blue*) to serve as football coach for both the college and high school teams. Two years later, when Jimmy decided to work exclusively with the college athletes, the high school hired his younger brother, Frank Needles to replace him. Frank, a star at Gonzaga University, coached both football and basketball for six years. George Malley, the father of Pat Malley ’49, succeeded him in 1929. (Pat Malley, a star athlete in his own right, went on to coach football at SI and at SCU where he eventually became athletic director. He was honored posthumously



SI won its first state championship in 1926 when the 145-pound team beat Lemoore High 20–11. Pictured above are, top row, M. Leahy, O’Gara, Olson, S. Leahy; bottom row, Burns, Feerick, Maloney, Casey, McMahan.

in 1985 with the Christ the King award — SI's highest honor to a graduate.)

Baseball & The Birth of the Wildcat

The SI baseball team turned in a strong showing in 1924, led by coach “Fat” Varni, taking second to SH in the San Francisco Athletic League led by junior outfielder Frank McGloin, who would later captain the team in his senior year and manage it from 1930 to 1942. (His son, John Bernard McGloin '29, would graduate from SI, join the Society of Jesus, teach at USF and author several works including *Jesuits by the Golden Gate*, a primary source for this history.)

In 1927, the baseball team, under coach Lorenzo Malone, SJ, won the AAA championship. The following year marked the birth of the term “Wildcat” as the name for the school's athletic teams. Before that, the teams were called the Gray Fog, a name given to SI by a sports writer. Later teams facetiously called themselves the Foglets and Fogletettes (for lightweight divisions). Sometimes, when they lost, they were known as the Drab Drizzle, according to the January 25, 1928, issue of *The Red and Blue*. That article went on to note that “with the separation of college and high school, it has been found desirable to distinguish the teams more strongly. Since the college was originally dubbed the Gray Fog, the Board of Control thinks it fitting that the college lightweights be called the Foglets, and the name has already been applied to them.

“This leaves the high school in an advantageous position.... and now we have the opportunity to rechristen the teams permanently.... The name Wildcats has been decided upon, as best symbolizing the spirit of the high school teams. They have always been lighter than their opponents, and always been noted for their fighting spirit when in difficulties. Their goal line defense, and last-minute rallies on the basketball court, have been proverbial.

“Moreover, it seems to be the universal custom to name teams after some animal — St. Ignatius can now take her place with the Cogswell Dragons, the Commerce Bulldogs, the Poly Parrots and the Galileo Lions.”

Swimming, Track & Tennis

Swimming began in 1924 when football coach Jimmy Needles created SI's first team, though he only coached them that one year. The 1924 *Ignatian* reported that “There is not too much material, but several boys among them being Cole, McGibben and Murphy, are showing quite some form and speed in practice.”² The team had its first formal coach in 1927 when SI hired Tom Kiernan “a noted developer of many national stars.” That year, too, saw the team practice in a new location at the Young Men's Institute.

The track team continued to excel in the '20s, with the 1924 juniors, coached by Charley Hunter, beating Mission 133–24. The following year the lightweight track team beat Lowell in a dual meet.³

The tennis team, competing in the courts at Golden Gate Park, won the city championship in 1926 and went on to CIF competition and won the AAA championship in 1928.

Extracurriculars: The Red and Blue

The high school launched a new tradition October 14, 1920, with the publication of its first newspaper, *The Red and Blue*, with Eustace Cullinan, Jr. '21, as the first editor. (Cullinan would later serve as a San Francisco Superior Court judge.) In his inaugural editorial, he sounded a refrain familiar to most editors of student publications when he criticized the student body for lack of school spirit: “This year at St. Ignatius there seems to be something lacking, which ought to be present. There is not the old bustling activity that accompanied scholastic activities. In short, the students of St. Ignatius seem to be lapsing gradually into a lithargy [sic].... We conclude that the cause of the evil must lie with the students. In past years, the very atmosphere of the school was charged with action; a keen, wholesome spirit of interclass rivalry existed, yet, paradoxical as it may seem, the school acted as a harmonious whole; we were all one big family together. We used to hear of ‘Buck’ and ‘Spud’ but now we speak of ‘O'Brien’ and ‘Sullivan.’”

Cullinan went on to note that “there is something besides mere knowledge, which is just as great in its own way, and even more apt to benefit us in later life. It is the forming of acquaintances and friendships which may endure long after the Greek verbs and rules of Geometry have passed from our minds.”

He concluded with the reason for the paper's existence: “to give our school what other high schools have, namely, a monthly publication which will review the student activities, and which will spread the achievements of St. Ignatius far and wide.... The Seniors have taken the initiative and are sponsoring the paper for the first edition, feeling that it was up to them to start the ball a-rolling. However, we expect this to be a school paper wherein every class will take an active part in its publication. Above all, don't be deceived by ‘scholastic Bolsheviks,’ who may say this is a ‘fourth year paper.’”

For all this seriousness, the last page of the four-page broadsheet offered these humorous asides:

“Heard in Trig —

“Joe Meaney — This stuff is killing me by inches.

“Ye Teacher — Cheer up Joe, you have a long way to go!”

“Clarence Gilly requests that his many admirers desist from calling him their ‘little lamb’ as it makes him feel so ‘sheepish like.’”

“This one takes the well-known brown derby. A dainty freshman has declined to play football because the ball is made of pigskin.”

In 1920, the same year as *The Red and Blue* saw its first edition, SI was denied accreditation after a visit by “Dr. Thomas” from the University of California on April 13. According to McGloin, Dr. Thomas found that the “subject matter of the courses offered was





not sufficiently broad; second, the teachers, with some exceptions, were not regarded as satisfactory.” The following year, students, teachers and administrators worked to improve the school and received accreditation in 1921.⁴

The Ignatian & The Heights

The *Ignatian* continued to publish as a yearbook, though it went through a major redesign. From 1910 through 1924, it published as a small pamphlet with a cardboard cover. In 1925 it published in a more traditional yearbook style with larger pages (10.75 x 7.75 inches) and a hardbound cover. From the first, it raised funds through advertisements from local merchants. It reported on both university and high school events, as the two schools shared the same building until 1927 when the college moved to Campion Hall at the USF site. The 1928 *Ignatian* covered only the college events, leaving the high school students to create their own yearbook, in 1928, which they named *The Heights*, in anticipation of the school’s move in 1929 to its new, higher location on Stanyan Street.

That first edition included this foreword: “This book purposes to be a record of the school year. A book can be nothing more than a record of the human acts or thoughts, and inasmuch as it records them faithfully, therein lies its worth and its reason for being. But a school journal, if it accomplishes this purpose, as we hope this has, is more than a cold, lifeless record. It preserves as in a bright and deathless looking-glass the brightest and happiest

The 1926 orchestra, which formed the previous year, performed at assemblies, oratorical contests, debates and First Friday assemblies. Opposite page: The Pageant of Youth featured a cast of 1,000 students from nearly every parochial school in San Francisco. SJ’s Rev. T.J. Flaherty, SJ, directed the grand spectacle.

years of our lives, — our school days. That is the reason for the existence of the 1928 *Heights*.”

Edward Sullivan ’28 served as the publication’s first editor, Charles Casassa ’28, later to become a Jesuit and president of Loyola University, was associate sports editor. and H. J. Haley, F. F. Collins and Fr. Harold Ring, SJ, served as moderators.

Music at SI

I assembled one of its earliest orchestras in 1925 “composed of a small group of willing workers and talented musicians. Many new and difficult pieces were rendered in a manner that showed earnest and hard practice, and the organization merited the highest praise,” despite having to cope with “the lack of several instruments, which were so necessary for a balanced orchestra and for properly rendered selections.” The orchestra performed at assemblies, oratorical contests and debates under the direction of Mr. A. I. Mei, SJ, a member of the college faculty. Later the orchestra performed at First Friday assemblies while a separate student band played at football and basketball games. In 1926 students formed a boys’ choir under the direction of Mr. Paul Descout, SJ, to sing at the many liturgies, and a glee club, which sang at student assemblies.⁵

The Block Club

The Block Club began in 1925 “to unite all those who have received their awards for athletic prowess into an organization for the furthering of better observance of school spirit and stimulating athletic interest in the school.” Its first officers were Frank Hanlon, Walter Black, Frank Gehres, George Olson and Ulick Kelly; the group consisted of 21 members.

Speech & Debate

SI students took part in a number of oratorical and academic contests that would prepare them for college and for their careers. The big event of the year was the Gold Medal Debate, staged between the Senate (the Senior Debating Society) and the House (the Debating Society of the Junior Class). The victor of this contest received a gold medal, a gift from the Gentlemen's Sodality of St. Ignatius Church. They also took part in a debate with students from Santa Clara (later to become Bellarmine College Preparatory), and vied for other academic awards including the Washington Essay Contest (with the winner receiving a trophy cup given for the best essay on the life of George Washington), the Freshman Elocution Contest (held at the Knights of Columbus Hall) and the Martin Latin Medal (the prize for the best paper in high school Latin).

Other Activities

Other contests included the Dramatic Arts Contest (an award for the best actor), the Outside Debate Team (which competed with other schools), the Loyalty Cup (given to the class "which has shown the most loyalty to the ideals of the school in student activity during the year"), the Museum Essay Contest (sponsored by the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum and won by Daniel Kelleher and George Olson in 1926) and the Senior Memorial Cup (an essay contest to commemorate two deceased members of the class). Other clubs included the Sanctuary Society and Sodality and the rally committees. Students also attended several dances, including the Senior Exclusive ("none but the mighty Senior was admitted"), the Block Club Dance, the Junior Prom, and the Senior Dance.

Along with these official activities were a few unofficial ones. The 1930 *Heights* notes that on October 25, 1929, a dozen "rascally" seniors "imbued with an overdose of school spirit ... raided Sacred Heart today with a barrage of tomatoes prior to the football game. Unfortunately, their motives were not approved of by the authorities."

The Pageant of Youth

In 1925, the Jesuits looked to another venue to help repay their debt: The *Pageant of Youth* — a lavish play involving 1,000 students from SI and other San Francisco Catho-

lic schools, all under the direction of Fr. T.J. Flaherty, SJ, and written by Fr. Daniel Lord, SJ, a talented young Jesuit of the Missouri Province. Among the stars of *Pageant of Youth* was J. Preston Devine '21, the uncle of former SI drama director and current English teacher Peter Devine '66. Preston played the choicest role in the *Pageant*, that of the devil.

The Red and Blue of February 25, 1925, reported that "when the call for the students was sent out [to audition for the Pageant], the auditorium was filled with the volunteers, forcing the directors to limit the already great number and reserve many for future use."

According to the 1925 *Ignatian*, the *Pageant of Youth*, which had five showings, was "a musical masque, heralded as the greatest religious, educational and dramatic production ever presented in San Francisco.... To accommodate the enormous number of participants, a special stage, 120 feet wide with a depth of 50 feet, the largest ever built in the Civic Auditorium, was constructed. To give a stage opening sufficient to frame the dancing groups and comprehend the magnitude of the lavish scenes and lighting effects, the arch was made 70 feet wide and 30 feet high. The rearranged Auditorium had a seating capacity of 6,000 with a perfect view of the stage for all."

In 1927, SI formed the Senior Dramatic Society and presented George Cohan's *Seven Keys to Baldpate* under the direction of Mr. Bart O'Neill, SJ, and Mr. Thomas Foster, with two performances at the Knights of Columbus Hall. A gushing reporter for the *Ignatian* had this to say about the performances of James Ludlow, Garret McEnerney, Frank Silva and Ralph

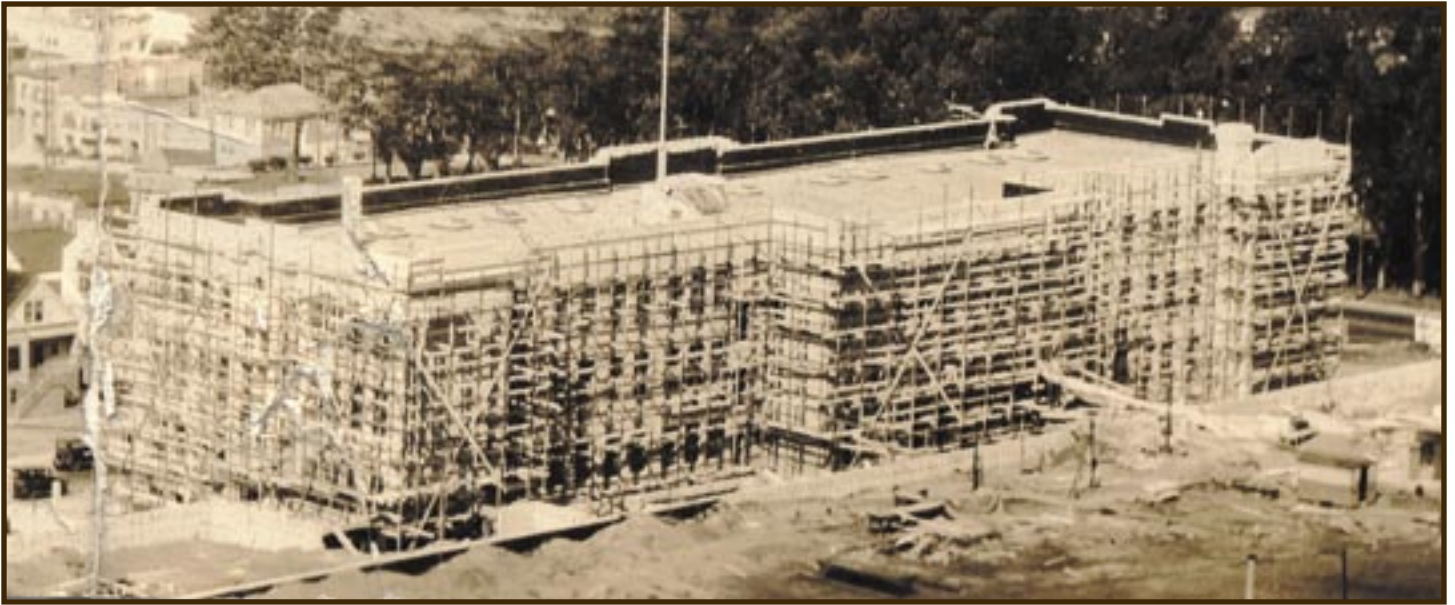
Campiglia: "The players set a precedent which will demand every art from future aspirants to dramatic honors. It is doubtful if the performance will ever be surpassed at St. Ignatius."

Two years later, Mr. Thomas Foster directed *Right on the Button* with a cast, for the first time, that went beyond seniors. Four juniors joined the typically all-senior cast and "a freshman [John McHugh] was chosen to play a juvenile role for which none suitable could be found in the upper division."⁶

Parent Nights

In 1926, SI seniors held a reception to honor their mothers in what was most likely the first mother-son dinner. The *Ignatian* of that year noted that "all semblance of formality was omitted and the meeting was a success as all present entered into the spirit of the occasion. Fr. President spoke in honor of the occasion and praised the ef-





forts of the Seniors and.... implied his sanction for a Mother's Club." The following year, the Class of 1927 held a Fathers' Night devoted "to the honor of that famous family institution, the Dad." The February 9 reception featured a one-act sketch, a salutatory address and a talk by Father President "outlining the Jesuit ideals of education."

One School Becomes Two

In the 1920s, both students and teachers felt ready to move to new quarters, as the "temporary" Shirt Factory never proved truly satisfactory. Around 1925, Miss Mary Horgan died, leaving the school \$25,000 in her will. The Jesuits hoped to ask 300 individuals to donate \$1,000 each to help SI begin construction of a new campus, the fifth and final one for the university and the penultimate one for the high school.

In an article in the *St. Ignatius Church Calendar* from July 1926, Fr. Ray Feely, SJ, encouraged parishioners to donate towards this effort by helping to support the training of Jesuits: "To one to whom the name 'St. Ignatius College and High School' carries no significance, it must be a difficult enigma to solve, why over a thousand lads should deliberately pass by the luxurious temples of learning scattered throughout San Francisco and should content themselves to spend the glamorous days of youth in such drab surroundings. The enigma deepens when one learns that these young men are paying for the privilege of attending school in 'a refugee shack' (a reference to the emergency shelters of the 1906 Earthquake), while a short distance away splendid buildings offer them an education free and without tuition (i.e., Lowell, Polytechnic and Washington). And all this in an age which values chiefly the superficial, whose standard is the extrinsic and not the intrinsic worth, which is more concerned with the tortoise shell frame than with the accuracy of the lens!

"The answer to this enigma is to be found in two words,

As construction began on the Stanyan Street campus in 1928, students in the cold and drafty Shirt Factory anticipated their new, modern quarters. The school opened in 1929, thanks to a \$100,000 gift from Senator James D. Phelan, which paid for nearly a third of the \$342,000 construction cost.

'Jesuit Education....' The point sought to be brought home here is that, in San Francisco as elsewhere, parents and boys alike desire instruction by Jesuit teachers, even if that education demands sacrifices both in the matter of finances and accommodations. The insistence of the people of San Francisco is so strong that dozens are turned away annually from St. Ignatius for lack of classroom space."

Fr. Edward J. Whelan, SJ, the 15th person to serve as president of SI, spearheaded fund-raising for the new college campus (the beginnings of USF) shortly after taking office in 1925, and by 1926, he had raised \$10,000, enough to give him hope for the rest. On December 10, 1926, the college celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony for the Liberal Arts building on Ignatian Heights, the name students used to describe the hilltop campus site adjacent to St. Ignatius Church. Among those who spoke that day were Fr. Whelan, Mayor "Sunny Jim" Rolph, Msgr. Michael Connolly of St. Paul's Parish (Archbishop Edward J. Hanna's representative), and Frank Hughes '83, president of the SI Alumni Association.

The new college building (Campion Hall) opened on October 9, 1927, after being blessed by Archbishop Hanna, and student enrollment finally began to increase. That slow growth inspired the college to change its name once again, this time to the University of San Francisco. However, not until the end of World War II and the introduction of the GI Bill did USF's enrollment start to skyrocket, making it one of the premier universities on the West Coast and the next step in formal education for many SI graduates.

Between 1927 and 1929, SI high school students studied at the Shirt Factory awaiting their own new campus. Barrett & Hilp, the construction firm that built Campion Hall, began work on September 11, 1928, on the Stanyan Street campus, located between McAllister and Turk Streets. Designed by Edward F. Eames along "classical lines," the new high school would be in "harmony with the church, the faculty building and the college building."⁷ According to the *St. Ignatius Church Calendar* of 1928, planning for the new school involved a careful study "of the plans of schools throughout the country," and visits with "more modern ones in Northern California."



The article described the many state-of-the-art features of the new school: “The building has been designed to accommodate one thousand students and will contain, besides the regular business and administration offices, thirty-five classrooms, physics and chemistry laboratories, mechanical and free-hand drawing departments, library, assembly hall, chapel, cafeteria, co-operative store and book store, band room, winter play room and gymnasium.”⁸

“The gymnasium will be the finest in Northern California and one of the finest in the country. In it will be located some seven hundred lockers, besides showers, dressing rooms for visiting teams and coaches’ rooms. The main floor will be 60 by 102 feet in the clear, and rising from that will be the grandstands with accommodations for 1,500 spectators.” (The school, however, would not muster enough funds to build this gymnasium until the 1950s.)

“The high school will have a frontage of 264 feet on Stanyan Street and 75 feet on Turk Street, and the gymnasium, south of the high school building, will have 130 feet on Turk Street and 104 on Stanyan.”

The football field next to the school featured an 8-lane crushed-granite track and wooden bleachers on the east side of the field. It was known as SI Field and later, after the high school moved to the Sunset District, as Loyola Field and then as Negroesco Stadium. (The field now offers stadium lights, seating for 5,000, a concession stand and a pressbox — a far cry from the windswept plain where SI teams battled for 40 years.)

Construction took a year, and the Stanyan Street campus opened August 19, 1929. The *Calendar* extolled its beauty then, noting that the lobby “is done in Sienna marble, the walls being in imitation travertine.” It touted the library, which had “accommodations for 10,000 volumes and for 100 students. It is done in the mission style, the woodwork in oak. An Assembly Hall adjoins the Library, a delicately done thing with beamed ceiling, in a grayish color, the drapes for the windows and stage in green.”

The article noted the layout of the building, with offices for the principal, vice principal, spiritual director, student body and athletic departments on the first floor along with seven classrooms. The second floor held 15 classrooms, with an addition 12 on the

third level. “The Physics and Chemistry Departments, modern and up to the minute in every way, are located on the third floor, and next to them are two drawing rooms, one for mechanical drawing, the other for free-hand drawing.

“The gem of the entire building is the chapel, the entrance to which is on the second floor, but which occupies the space of two floors. It has a gallery, which is entered from the third floor. The harmony of the Chapel, the delicately colored walls, the graceful arches over the windows, the symbolism of the ornaments, all point to it as being something quite distinctive in a Chapel design. But the crowning point of the chapel is the Altar, designed entirely by Mr. Edward Eames....

“In the basement, which is completely above ground, are found the Student’s Co-operative Store, the Book Store, the Assembly Room and Library of the Gentlemen’s Sodality, a huge winter playground, a Cafeteria completely modern in every detail, the athletic locker and dressing rooms, and the Boiler Room.

“The extensive playgrounds outside of the building contain four basketball courts, three handball courts and a tennis court. And just east is the Athletic Field, which will be used both by the College and High School. The field has been thoroughly graded and planted in grass; in length it is 534 feet, and in width 200 feet. The turf field is encircled by a quarter-mile running track, which has been designed and laid out in accordance with every requirement and is one of the very best tracks in California.”

The article concluded with praise for the state-of-the-art public address system “which the principal from his desk can address the students in any particular classroom, or in all the classrooms at once. By means of the loud speaker attachment in all of the rooms connection may be made.... Thus a notice, instead of being sent around by word of mouth to the thirty-five classrooms and consuming a great deal of time, can be delivered simultaneously to all of the classes at the expense of just a few moments of time.” The PA also allowed for radio hookups. “Thus if a message should be on the air that would be of great educational advantage to the group studying American History, for instance, or Civics, or Chemistry, that message can be directed to those particular classes. The possibilities of the Public Address System are very great and far-reaching indeed.”

Students leaving the Shirt Factory to study on Stanyan Street felt as if they were walking into the Taj Mahal. This landmark school would serve more than 10,000 Ignatians over the next 40 years until 1969 when SI moved to its sixth campus, located in the Sunset District.

James D. Phelan

One generous gift of \$100,000 made the Stanyan Street campus possible and paid for nearly a third of the \$342,000 construction cost of the school. The donor was former U.S. Senator James D. Phelan, considered by many to be “the foremost citizen of California.”⁹

Phelan, who received his A.B. degree in 1881, was one of SI’s most famous graduates. Of Phelan’s early days, an 1878 story in the *Monitor* reports the following: “We attended the literary entertainment ... on last Monday evening. The College Hall, where it took place, was well crowded, and a highly appreciative audience manifested great interest in the proceedings. The principal feature of the entertainment consisted in a debate on the question, ‘Has every male adult a right to vote?’ and the arguments advanced by the young debaters were very ably and forcibly put. Where all were so excellent, it may be invidious to single out any individual, but the natural, self-possessed and eloquent delivery of Master James D. Phelan elicited general commendation.”¹⁰



Phelan aspired to a literary career, but his father — an Irish immigrant who made his fortune as a trader, banker and merchant shortly after the Gold Rush — convinced him to join the family business in real estate and banking. In his role as businessman, he doubled his family’s assets. According to an article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Phelan was “San Francisco’s greatest host after the death of banker William Ralston [and]... the city’s most eligible bachelor who financed California playwrights, artists and sculptors, filling [his Saratoga home Villa] Montalvo with their creations.”¹¹

Later, Phelan would serve as San Francisco mayor (1896–1902) where he worked to reform City Hall, improve the economy and pass a new city charter that led to the creation of elected supervisors. He was also California’s first popularly elected senator. The Jesuits showed their gratitude to Phelan in 1905 by granting him an honorary degree of Doctor of Law. On the day of the 1906 earthquake, Mayor Eugene Schmitz appointed Phelan head of the relief committee for those made homeless by the fire. The Jesuits paid their final tribute by naming USF’s Phelan Hall residential dormitory for him in 1955.

Despite his accomplishments, Phelan remains a controversial figure in city history due to his support of the Chinese Exclusion Act, which drastically reduced the number of immigrants coming from China. After the San Francisco Earthquake, Phelan hoped to relocate the city’s Chinese population to Hunter’s Point to remove them from the center of the city, and he also warned against the growing influx of Japanese immigrants. Phelan’s anti-Asian politics may have been typical for his times, but as USF President Stephen Privett, SJ, noted, Phelan’s “explosively rhetorical expressions of exclusionary sentiments have all the appeal to modern ears of fingernails scraping down a blackboard.”¹²

After Phelan died on August 7, 1930, at his country home near Saratoga, his remains lay in state at City Hall for three days. A funeral Mass followed, the “largest and most imposing funeral ever seen in San Francisco,” on August 11 at St. Ignatius Church attended by California Governor Clement C. Young, Mayor Rolph, and U.S. Senator Samuel D. Shortridge. The Jesuits named nearly 100 honorary pallbearers for this graduate of SI who made possible the construction of the high school’s fifth home.¹³

Enrollment Rises as the Old School Falls

In the years before the Depression, enrollment at the high school climbed steadily. In 1909, the high school held 198 students. By the fall of 1922, high school enrollment topped 500 for the first time in the school’s history and climbed to 852 in 1931–32. The following year, enrollment fell to 680, but by the mid 1930s, the numbers had recovered somewhat to “considerably above the 700 mark.”¹⁴

The stock market wasn’t the only thing to come crashing down in 1929. That same year the Shirt Factory was demolished. An editorial in the September 19 edition of *The Red and Blue* waxed eloquently on this demise: “...we don’t forget our athletic ups and downs, our literary, forensic and thespian activities there. A building does not make a school: it is the student body that classifies it. So when you see apartment houses on the south side of Hayes Street opposite St. Mary’s Hospital, just remember that all the spirit and loyalty has moved up a block or so, and that the students of the new St. Ignatius High School are even more interested and enthusiastic for bigger and better accomplishments for their new school.” In the November 15 edition, as the demolition progressed, *The Red and Blue* struck a lighter tone: “We bid you goodbye, school of cold winters and JUG all the time. The rambling shack of wood is now a gigantic pile of toothpicks.” The paper made no mention of another great demolition — that of the stock market — which occurred two weeks earlier.



Above: Senator James Phelan. Right: Members of Tappa Kega Schwartz gather in May 1928 in an unauthorized fraternity. Members affixed the Schwartz soda bottle top to their shirts for fraternity pins. Opposite page top: The high school community celebrated the 75-year anniversary of the founding of SI. Right: Fr. Walter Semeria, SJ.

VII. AT HOME ON STANYAN STREET (1930–1939)



Diamond Jubilee Celebration

SI marked its 75-year anniversary with a series of celebrations starting May 19, 1930, that included a diamond jubilee rally at SI Stadium on October 13; a celebration at the Civic Auditorium on October 17 with Archbishop Hanna, Mayor Rolph and USF President Edward Whelan, SJ; and a parade and Mass on October 19. St. Ignatius College used this occasion to change its name formally to the University of San Francisco.

Later, on May 22, the Society of California Pioneers dedicated a plaque commemorating the first St. Ignatius Academy of 1855. The plaque was affixed to The Emporium department store, built on the site of that one-room schoolhouse. SI President Fr. Anthony P. Sauer, SJ, rededicated that plaque and installed a new one at The Emporium in 1979, the first year he took office, commemorating the school's 125th anniversary. The plaque bears these words: "The original St. Ignatius College has developed into both the University of San Francisco and St. Ignatius College Preparatory. Placed in honor of their 125th year by both senior classes of 1980. October 15, 1979."

The Case of the Missing Principal

In the 1930–31 school year, SI had three principals. First, Fr. Dennis Sullivan, SJ, who had taught as a regent at SI in the early 1920s, took over in the summer of 1930 but left for Seattle on November 3, possibly for reasons of health, and he died there six years later. Following in his stead was the noted preacher Fr. Dennis Kavanagh, SJ, but sickness forced him, too, to resign by January. Succeeding him was Fr. Walter Semeria, SJ '15, a legendary figure, known not for his tenure of office, but how he ended his association with the Jesuits.

Not much is known about his two terms as principal. He introduced the practice of mailing report cards home to parents and ended the Friday assemblies at which students received awards and medals for academic achievement. The August 19, 1932, edition of *The Red and Blue*, mentions in passing that he had left for his tertianship studies, and that Fr. James King, SJ, would succeed him as principal.

Four years later, Fr. Semeria disappeared, the apparent victim of a drowning accident on May 15, 1936. The May 27 edition of *The Red and Blue* reported that Fr. Semeria had died, "a victim of the raging Pacific Ocean." It mentions that he had been "burdened with periodic sickness," and had most recently served as "spiritual father of the young men of the University."

What no one knew at the time was that Semeria had faked his death in order to leave town. SI Athletic Director Robert Vergara '76 found out what really happened when, in 1983, he interviewed Fr. William Keenan, SJ, SI's treasurer.

Fr. Keenan told Vergara that Semeria had gone to the beach one day after school and then disappeared, leaving behind a pile of his clothes and a breviary on the sands. The Jesuits, thinking that he had committed suicide, kept the matter quiet. But some, including Fr. Keenan,

found it hard to believe Semeria had committed suicide. "It was thought odd, at the time, that Fr. Semeria should go swimming after school that day.

He didn't like the water, but his clothes were on the beach, and he disappeared. It was assumed that he had drowned. About 10 years later, however, USF received a request from a Southwestern Bible college for Walter Semeria's transcript — an odd request for a man supposedly 10 years dead. At about the same time, Fr. William Dunne, SJ '15, president of USF and SI (and Semeria's high school classmate at SI), was



scheduled to go to Albuquerque, NM, for a conference. While he was there, he took a 'shot in the dark' and looked through the phone book for a Walter Semeria. He found the name, dialed the number, and asked if he could speak with Walter Semeria. When Semeria came to the phone, Fr. Dunne recognized his voice and said, 'Hello —.' Fr. Dunne called Semeria by a nickname that only the two of them used. Semeria knew the charade was over and agreed to meet with Fr. Dunne. They were together for an hour or two and Fr. Dunne had his say."

Some of the priests in the city had refused to believe that Fr. Semeria had actually pulled this; after Fr. Dunne's meeting, they were convinced. Further confirmation came when some publication ran a photo of a Protestant ministers' conference, and Walter Semeria was clearly visible. He had become an Episcopal minister. Semeria later changed his name, and he never told his family that he was alive, worried, perhaps, that the stigma of being related to a runaway priest would be too much for them to bear.



A Song to Fight Over

In 1932, SI hired Eneas “Red” Kane, a nationally-ranked track athlete who had coached and taught there for several years, as the school’s first athletic director. He served in that position until 1936 when he left for a job at City Hall. He was replaced by Richard “Red” Vaccaro, a former star athlete at the college, who held the job until 1953. Following him were J.B. Murphy (1953-1967), Leo LaRocca ’53 (1966–2000) and Robert Vergara ’76 (2000–). (More on these men in later chapters.)

The school began another sports tradition in 1933 when Fenton Gervase O’Toole ’34 wrote the words that generations of Ignatians have sung at rallies and games. The November 8, 1933, edition of *The Red and Blue* reported on this event:

“Here It is: School Victory Song

*To the Red and Blue we’ll all be true,
 We’ll wave her banner to the sky,
 We’ll fight for you, old Red and Blue,
 We’ll fight for Saint Ignatius High!
 And victory will be our goal —
 For we will reach it, if we try,
 So let us fight—with all our might—
 We’re gonna fight, fight, fight, fight, fight!”*

Ignatian’s Song of Victory Made by F. O’Toole

“The Victory Song’s here! A real cheery song of encouragement for the boys who wear the Red and Blue. For a long time loyal Ignatians have been discussing ways and means of instilling more pep and enthusiasm into our student body. Fenton O’Toole ’34 has come to the aid of all loyal Ignatians with a new victory song, to be sung at all games and rallies to the tune of a snappy military march.

“You will hear the song at the next rally but in the meantime learn the words so that you can warble the Red and Blue warriors on to victory. Get behind the new school song and make it a real student body accomplishment of the year.”

O’Toole, who later changed his first name to Felton, joined the Society of Jesus after graduating from SI and served as a priest for 50 years until his death. He ended his career as an assistant professor of English at SCU from 1975–83.

Academics

What did high school students read in their English classes in the 1930s? What electives could they take? According to the *Catalogue* of 1930–31, students read such classics as *The Iliad & The Odyssey*, *The Aeneid*, *Everyman*, *Morte d’Arthur*, *Pilgrim’s Progress*, *Gulliver’s Travels*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *The Vicar of Wakefield*, *The Last Days of Pompeii*, *Ivanhoe*, *Treasure Island*, *Captains Courageous* and *Lorna Doone*.

They also read Shakespeare, Austen, Dickens, Hawthorne and a number of poets, such as Tennyson, Arnold, Byron, Coleridge, Pope, Milton and Browning — in short, the Great Books that students had read 30 years previous and would continue to read 30 years hence. This was the same reading list used by every teacher in every school in the province, as they all looked to the *Ratio Studiorum* to guide their curriculum. (Not until the 1960s and 1970s would teachers be allowed to experiment and stray from this norm with authors such as Kate Chopin, e.e. cummings and Allen Ginsberg.)

SI offered a variety of courses over the four years, but students had few options for electives. Subjects included chemistry, civics, debating, English, French, German, Greek, history, Latin, mathematics, mechanical drawing, music, physics, public speaking, religion, Spanish and social science. In all, 35 teachers and seven administrators helped 850 students march through their four years of high school education.

In 1933, the school changed its curriculum, requiring all students to take Latin, English, history and mathematics in their first two years as core subjects, with honors students taking Greek in their sophomore year. For the junior year, students could choose from three different sets of additional courses, though, as Fr. McGloin notes, “St. Ignatius High School still was determined to retain its character as a college preparatory institution for not one vocational or commercial subject was included in the three groups.”¹

SI also began offering three kinds of diplomas in 1933: a general diploma for students taking fewer than four years of Latin, a classical diploma for four years of Latin study, and the highest award — an honorary classical diploma — for four years of Latin and two of Greek.

In 1938, Fr. Edward B. Rooney, SJ, the national director of the Jesuit Education Association, came to SI to evaluate its programs and facilities. He found that the 704 students and 45 faculty of SI enjoyed a “fine reputation” and that the school “was run exceptionally well.” He also noted that SI was “one of the four Jesuit high schools chosen two years ago to participate in the Cooperative Study of Secondary School Standards in some two hundred American high schools. Its rating in this study was quite satisfactory.” He hoped that the school would employ more Jesuit priests as teachers, as SI relied heavily on scholastics, whose time at the school lasted only a few years. Those scholastics, however, were crucial to the running of the school, as they supplied needed manpower and kept tuition costs low. They also served to inspire young men to follow a vocational call to the Society of Jesus as priests and brothers and to become diocesan priests.²

Athletics: Football

The football team, which left the AAA after the 1931 season for lack of success against the powerful city teams, went undefeated under Coach George Malley from September 1933 to December 1935, finally losing 12–7 to Loyola High School of Los Angeles in the state Catholic prep grid championship. Coach Malley was so popular in those days that you could hear him being interviewed on Bay Area radio stations. His success prompted SI to return to the AAA in 1936. The *San Francisco Chronicle*, at the end of the 1934 season, likened Malley’s

team to the “Rockne Ramblers” of Notre Dame. (It seemed in those days as if all Catholic athletes in the U.S. were measured against the exploits of Notre Dame’s great teams.) “Today in San Francisco is an unsung, unnoted football team that embodies about everything that Notre Dame teams of years ago stood for — rambling, fight and Irish — and undefeated records. That team belongs to St. Ignatius High School. The Ignatians ramble over California a bit, next year they may even trek to Reno; Irish names dominate the lineup and the record is clean — not even one point is tabbed for opponents.”

The lightweight football team also enjoyed success, with the 1933 squad, coached by Eneas “Red” Kane, winning 13 games by shutting out each opponent and scoring a total of 219 points. The team was ranked first in Northern California but missed playing Bakersfield for the state championship. SI hoped to raise funds to travel south through the gate receipts of a game against Sacred Heart. When that game was cancelled, SI opted not to make the trip.

Basketball

In 1936, Eneas “Red” Kane, SI’s first athletic director, left and was replaced by Richard “Red” Vaccaro ’26, who made a name for himself as a football great at SI. In 1924, the year he entered SI as a sophomore, he became the captain of the varsity football team under coach Jimmy Needles. He continued at SI College in 1926 and graduated in 1930 after playing football for SI and the Olympic Club. In 1931 he started teaching at the high school and the following year became assistant to Leo Rooney, SI’s head football coach. In 1936, he became both the new athletic director and head football coach (1936–1941) after George Malley left to coach on the college level.

One challenge Vaccaro faced was the lack of a gym for his basketball teams. The school began raising money for a gym, with \$70,000 set for the goal, and in the meantime, SI played at the newly-opened Kezar Pavilion and Stadium.

The varsity basketball team of 1935–36 seemed destined for greatness with the hire of Louis Batmale, a member of Lowell’s Class of 1930 who was a year out of college. Members of the Class of ’36 wondered who this baby-faced choirboy was, as he looked no older than they. Some students began making fun of him behind his back. One day, they turned all their chairs around to face the back of the room. “We thought it was funny,” said Bill Bennett ’36. “He did not.”

Jack “Doc” Overstreet ’36 was one of those who was not immediately impressed by Batmale. “Then one day, I was walking down the hall, and this tall man grabbed me. He said, ‘Are you trying to knock me down? That’s not going to happen.’ No one gave him trouble after that. Later, I realized how much he and all my teachers really cared for us.”

Batmale coached the SI basketball team to seven straight wins, leading up to a big game against Lowell. Bob Fair ’36, who played for Batmale, remembers Kezar selling out all 5,500 seats, and turning away 10,000 more. Lowell beat SI 29–8 that night. “That was pretty embarrassing for all of us,” Fair notes. For Frank Lawson ’36, that loss “was the toughest of my life. Over the years I have run into so many people who said they were at that game.” SI wouldn’t avenge itself until 1943, when Kevin



O'Shea '43 would lead the Wildcats to a city championship.

Batmale succeeded as a coach despite having to scrounge around the city for gyms to use. "All we had were two hoops in the schoolyard," he noted. "We would use a gym on Page Street and ones at Kezar, the Governor's Club (now the San Francisco Boy's Club), Roosevelt Jr. High School and, once in a while, Mission High and Everett Junior High."

Batmale also taught English at SI between 1935–39 and recalls the faculty make-up was the ideal mix for Fr. James A. King, SJ, whom Batmale called "a great principal"): one-third priests, one-third scholastics and one-third laymen. Batmale, like all the lay teachers, made just enough to get by: \$1,700 per year. "Those were Depression dollars," he added. "An apartment cost \$30 a month to rent and a restaurant dinner cost 75 cents." Still, after he married, Fr. King told him this: "Louis, you can't work for the Jesuits all your life. You need to make enough to support a family now." The Jesuits simply couldn't afford to pay lay teachers as much as they deserved, so Batmale left SI, took a job at Commerce High School, and eventually rose through the public school ranks to become president of San Francisco City College, retiring in 1977.



Top: The 1932 Varsity Football Team. Above: Varsity Crew in 1939, after winning the All City Championship. Photo provided by Maureen Revel and Carolyn Coe, whose father, Timothy Sullivan, is pictured (2nd from right, standing). Sullivan's grandchildren are recent SI grads. Opposite page: Richard Egan starred in Elvis Presley's first movie.

Baseball

SI won its first AAA baseball championship under manager Frank McGloin '25, who had been a star on the SI baseball team. The 1930 season began with the Wildcats winning four of their first five games with stars such as Joe Burns, Roy Harrison and team captain Cal Sever, who later played in the Pacific Coast League for the Oakland Oaks. In the league championship, SI beat Galileo two games to one. McGloin said that team was "one of the best I ever coached."³

Crew

The SI Rowing Club may have been active informally in the 1920s, but it gained formal status in 1932 when Thomas O'Dwyer, a student at SI, organized the school's first crew, which was coached by William Lenhart. After more than 200 boys tried out, the coach formed two crews, one for the 130-pound weight class and the other an unlimited (varsity) boat. In its first year, rowing in 14-person whaleboats, SI beat Galileo, Lowell, Marin Junior College and several other schools. The team to beat, however, was the crew from Continuation High School, and SI placed second in AAA competition to that school in 1936 through 1938.

James Feehan '32, who died in 2004, was a member of the first crew. His widow, Geraldine, recalls that her husband "practiced with the rowing club every Saturday morning on the Bay with Angel Island their destination. On one trip, the boys stayed too long on the island. Because of changing tides, rowing back was hard and dangerous. They arrived safely, but it was an anxious and worrisome time for everyone awaiting their return at the South End Rowing Club pier. Monday morning was also an anxious and worrisome time when the team was called to the principal's office for a full accounting of the episode."

In 1939, SI won its first league title by defeating Galileo; SI recaptured the league championship in 1941 and 1942 before disbanding. SI would not compete in crew again until 1979. In the 1990s, SI would prove to be a powerhouse both in California and in the nation, taking first place in the U.S. in 1997, marking SI's only national athletic championship.

Golf

The first mention of a golf team occurs in the 1930 edition of *The Heights*, which noted that the “there aren’t too many good golfers in the prep circles around here, and the Wildcats seem to be blessed with an amazing number of them.” Standouts included senior Frank Devlin, who already had a hole-in-one to his credit, sophomore George Kuklinsky and junior Neal Lyons. Others on the team were Al Buchner, Joe Kelly, Lee Hoagland, John Duff, Frank Keane, Sid Heller, Gerry Lunch, Fred Cosgrove, Jack Sherry, Ed Gilmore, Bill O’Toole and Jack Freed.

Extracurriculars: CSF

In 1930, SI applied for membership in the California Scholarship Federation and formed its first Honor Society, Chapter 211 of the CSF. According to *The Heights* of that year, the group was “a junior part of the International Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and any high school member enjoys the help of that body upon his entrance into college.” The first five members that year were William Dowling, William Dunbar, James Gallen, George Myers and John O’Connell. In 1942, Edward L. Burke ’42, who later served for a time as a Jesuit and a professor at USF, won the CSF’s highest prize, the Seymour Memorial Award, honoring him for being the top male student in the state.

Marching for ROTC & Jeans

Fr. King, principal from 1932–1945, added a Military Training Unit to the curriculum in 1935, the genesis of the ROTC program. While students participated in it by the hundreds, they still had a rebellious streak. In March 1937, 50 students came to class wearing blue jeans to protest the strict dress code. When they were told to go home and change, they walked outside and sat in the street. The *Examiner* ran a picture of the students on March 19 with a “Strike for Jeans” sign during their sit-in, and the caption noted that “for a while, they sat in the street wearing out the jeans at strategic points. But all of them were back in class by noon” and that “the principal called it a lark.” Those boys spent a day in JUG for every class period they missed.

Speech & Debate

Debate continued to be a primary extracurricular activity. In 1934, SI took on Bellarmine over this proposition: “Resolved, that Hitler is a benefit to Germany.” Debaters in the Senate, the senior debating society, gathered first at SI and then at Bellarmine for two nights of arguments. Bellarmine defended the proposition, arguing that Hitler had “checked communism” and had “been a benefit to Germany, financially.” SI countered, with Jack Clifford arguing that Hitler’s government “was one of oppression,” Jack Wade noting that Hitler had “fostered race hatred,” and Jack Barbieri pointing to the trade wall erected by Hitler. SI won that debate round, though it lost the following day to Bellarmine.⁴

Richard Egan ’39

One of the most famous students to attend SI graduated in 1939. Richard Egan starred in *Love Me Tender* (1956), in which Elvis Presley made his debut, Disney’s *Pollyanna* (1960), and *A Summer Place* (1959), playing Sandra Dee’s father.

At SI he performed in *The Dragon’s Breath* and *The Bat* and won the Freshman Elocution Medal. He got to know all the priests by working the switchboard at Welch Hall. After graduating from USF, where he participated in the College Players Theatre productions, he enlisted in the Army during World War II and served as a judo instructor before being discharged in 1946 with the rank of captain.



He picked up his acting career at Stanford after the war, earning a master’s degree in theater history, and at Northwestern University, where he taught and appeared in 30 shows.

A Warner Bros. talent scout eventually spotted him and signed him to a contract. After a series of supporting roles, he became a star for 20th Century-Fox, which likened him to Clark Gable, and cast him in a number of adventure movies including *A View from Pompey’s Head* in 1955, *Esther and the King* in 1960 and *The 300 Spartans* in 1962. He also starred in *Up Front*, *Hollywood Story*, *The Devil Makes Three*, *Seven Cities of Gold*, *Split Second*, *The Glory Brigade*, *Demetrius and the Gladiators*, and *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*.

In 1962, Egan began a career in television as Jim Redigo in *Empire*, a contemporary western series; for its second season, the show changed its name to *Redigo*. Toward the end of his career, he played the role of Samuel Clegg II on the soap opera *Capitol* until his death in 1987. Among the pallbearers for his funeral were his close friends Robert Mitchum and boxer Floyd Patterson. (Both Egan and his brother, Fr. Willis Egan, SJ ’35, a theology professor at USF, were lifelong fans of boxing. They numbered among their friends many of the champions who fought at the Olympic Auditorium in LA. “I enjoyed watching Richard’s boxing movies when we would hold ‘Jesuit Night at the Fights’ at Loyola University,” recalls Fr. Kotlanger. “He was a generous man who frequently attended SI and USF events to boost alumni

enthusiasm.” Fr. Kotlanger also recalls that Herb Caen used to joke that Fr. Willis Egan should have become an actor as he was better looking than his brother.)

During his career he received the Laurel Award and was ranked among the top tier of entertainers by *Good Housekeeping* magazine. He was survived by his five children and by his wife, Patricia, whom he married in 1958 at Star of the Sea Church at a Mass officiated by his brother. His cousin Grace White noted in the spring 1989 issue of *Genesis II* that Egan was happy to land the *Capitol* part as it allowed him to spend more time with his family. “Rich was a wonderful family man,” said Mrs. White. “His family meant everything to him. Even though he was in Hollywood, Rich lived a quiet life and was very private. He was a holy man, truly a religious person.”

Alfred J. Cleary (SI 1900)

In 1930, Alfred J. Cleary (SI 1900 & grandfather of Board of Regents President Mark Cleary '64) was appointed San Francisco's first chief administrative officer by Mayor Angelo Rossi. Cleary, who had trained at UC Berkeley as a civil engineer, was chief assistant in charge of work on the Hetch Hetchy Dam and the supervisor of the pipeline that carried its water to the Bay Area. He also proposed the Rincon Hill site for the Bay Bridge and created the Mokelumne Water Project, which supplied the East Bay with water.

Under the city's new charter, Cleary wielded considerable power as supervisor of both the SFFD and SFPD, the departments of finance and records, purchasing, public works, health, real estate, electricity, street traffic, welfare, coroner's office and several minor bureaus. *The San Francisco News* praised the appointment in a December 16, 1930, editorial, calling Cleary an “experienced, successful and highly regarded civil engineer.... In his new post Mr. Cleary will be the real boss of most of the routine work of the city.”

Alluding to the corruption inherent in city government at that time, the *News* editorial added this note: “To clean up the Department of Public Works and to apply efficiency and economy to its street and other construction work will be in itself a job to test any man's capacity.”

When he died in 1938, 108 honorary pallbearers, including A.P. Giannini (founder of the Bank of Italy which later became the Bank of America), took part in a funeral procession down Van Ness Avenue. Alfred Cleary Street, on the west side of St. Mary's Cathedral, was named for this remarkable civic leader.



Al Wilsey '36

One of SI's greatest supporters over the years was Al Wilsey '36. He died in 2002, but his legacy can still be felt at SI, from the library named in his honor to the many years of service he gave the school as regent and trustee.

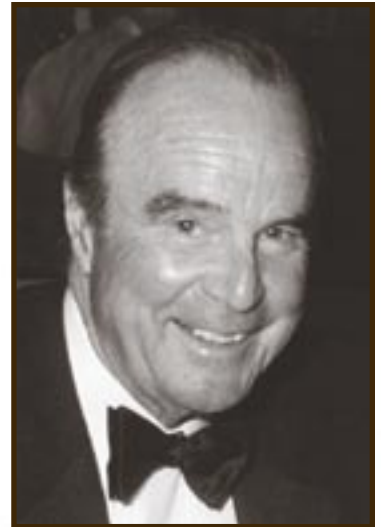
At the age of 12, he accepted an eight-year scholarship to SI and USF offered to the brightest incoming freshman. He and his brother, Jack Wilsey '34, traveled daily by ferry from Sausalito to San Francisco to reach SI, and despite the commute, both Wilseys excelled in academics and athletics. In addition to playing football, Al argued on the speech and debate team and was a member of the honor society.⁵

By 1937, Al's first year at USF, both his mother and father had passed away, leaving the Wilsey Bennett Company family butter and egg business to Al and Jack. The company prospered under the direction of the brothers, and after World War II expanded into other products, including margarine, shortening and salad oil. Today, among other things, the Wilsey Bennett Company is involved in real estate development and venture capital investment. In explaining his success, Al characteristically responded, “We were just at the right place at the right time.”

In the true Ignatian spirit of service, over the years, Al gave generously of his time, talent, and resources. He served the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco as a trustee, and a room in the Palace of the Legion of Honor is named for him and his wife, Dede. He was an avid supporter of numerous San Francisco institutions, including the opera and the California Academy of Sciences.

When Fr. Carlin created the Board of Regents in the 1960s, he invited Wilsey to join. Wilsey led both capital campaigns — the one to build the Sunset District campus in the 1960s and the one to remodel it in the 1990s after the school became coeducational. To thank him for his efforts, SI named him a Life Regent and made him one of three lay members of the Board of Trustees — the ownership body of the school — when that group was formed in the late 1990s.

“He is one of the most helpful and considerate alums I have ever met,” said Fr. Sauer on the day Wilsey received the school's Christ the King Award. “He is among the rare individuals who helped us through major hurdles and difficulties of all kinds to allow SI the freedom to concentrate on advancing our mission as an educational institution.” His son Alfred S. “Lad” Wilsey, Jr., is a member of the school's Board of Regents.



Left: Alfred Cleary (SI 1900) was San Francisco's first Chief Administrative Officer; Above: Al Wilsey '36, for whom the library at SI is named, was a longtime regent and one of the first lay trustees of the school. Opposite page: J.B. Murphy taught at SI for 50 years, from 1939 to 1989, and served as the third athletic director.

VIII. WAR & VALOR (1940–1949)

“Mr. SI”: J.B. Murphy

In its 150-year history, the SI faculty has included a number of people who bled red and blue, many of whom were or are alumni or alumnae. But the teacher who has earned the title “Mr. S.I.” never attended St. Ignatius. To earn that moniker, he simply put in 50 years on the job, serving as teacher, coach and athletic director (from 1953 to 1967).

Few people know that John Bernard Murphy (universally called J.B.) almost didn’t live past his 24th birthday. He entered St. Patrick’s seminary after graduating from St. Paul’s grammar school, but one year from ordination, J.B. learned that he had bleeding ulcers, and his doctor told him he would die within six months.

He left the seminary and spent the next year and half struggling to recover. When he felt strong enough, he decided to work to help his parents last out the Depression. He sought work as a Latin teacher, given his seminary training. But when he started work on August 16, 1939, at SI, he found himself assigned to history and PE classes. Two years later, he was assigned to teach math when a scholastic from Spokane called in sick a day before classes began. “The principal looked through his faculty, and I was the only one who had four years of high school math. No one on the faculty had college math,” recalled Murphy in an interview published in the summer 1989 issue of *Genesis II*. “He said, ‘Murphy, you’re teaching five classes of math on Monday at 8:30 a.m.’”

Students soon learned that he was a tough disciplinarian. “I had a volatile temper, but I worked awfully hard when I started teaching to cool it. The very first days I was teaching, one of my students — now a respected lawyer — was making fun of me *sotto voce*, speaking behind his hand. In those days, the teacher’s desk was on a platform. I pushed my desk off the platform into the arms of this boy. I went down, picked him out of his desk, took him outside and lifted him by his shirt against the lockers. I said, ‘I’m an Irishman and you’re a disturbing little runt. If you do that again, I’ll separate your head from your shoulders.’ Forty-seven years later, he told me that he respected me for what I did.”

His close friend and fellow teacher, Frank Corwin (“Uncle Frank” to the students and faculty), tempered this image by noting that “between J.B. and Fr. Tom Reed, our principal at the time, those two knew every family in every parish in San Francisco. J.B. knew everything about each boy at SI, not just the boys in his class. He would know if they had any family problems, such as an alcoholic parent or monetary issues. Because we had no real counselors in those days, J.B. would often go to a student’s home to help a boy with family problems. He put in many 16-hour days doing this.”

He married Edna Ford in 1940 and they had four children, including Chuck Murphy ’61, who has taught math at SI since 1965. Three Murphys made the cover of *Company* magazine (a national magazine for American Jesuits and friends) when it pictured J.B., Chuck, and J.B.’s grandson Matthew Murphy ’89 when he enrolled at SI. The first coed class also included Matt’s

sister, Marielle Murphy ’93, who enrolled the year her grandfather retired.

During the war years, J.B. became a favorite of many of the students. “They hung onto us and their parents in those days,” he noted. “All of the students had tremendous respect for the Jesuits and were continually afraid that they were going to lose the lay teachers they dearly loved to the draft.”

During the war, battleships sailed in and out of San Francisco Bay daily. “You lost your students’ attention as soon as a war ship sailed by the Golden Gate. All the boys would look out the window at the ship coming in, and you could see the anguish and pathos in their faces. You lost their attention immediately. It was a poor teacher who tried to bring them back to attention; after the ship sailed past, you could recapture their attention.”

J.B. gained coaching experience with the Young Men’s Institute swimming team (the precursor to the CYO), and he became SI’s third athletic director in 1953. He found himself in contentious meetings with the AAA’s other athletic directors, most of whom were from public schools. “When they pushed him, he would push right back again,” recalled Frank Corwin. “He wasn’t afraid to speak up.”

But as an athletic director, he is perhaps most known for never missing a game. And for most of those games, he would wear his trademark yellow tie. He began wearing it in the early 1950s when René Herrerias ’44 coached basketball for SI before leaving to coach at UC Berkeley. “We were guests at the tournament of champions at Cal,” said J.B. “Against all odds, our team won every game during the morning and afternoon. At dinner, René ribbed me about my flashy yellow tie that I was wearing. That night we won the championship. After ribbing me all day about the yellow tie, he said, ‘Any game I coach for the rest of my life and your life, I want you to wear that yellow tie.’”

Pay at SI was low, so J.B. took on several other jobs to support his family. At Hamm’s Brewery, he worked on the bottling line during his summers. “I was on the job for three hours when my supervisor asked me why all the other workers were calling me ‘Mister.’ I told him these boys, students and athletes at SI, knew





me as their athletic director.” With that, the foreman promoted J.B. to line boss. Even though he made more working for Hamm’s for three months than working for SI for nine, he stayed at SI because, as his son Chuck noted, “there’s a real mesh between his philosophy of education and Jesuit philosophy. I’ve heard Jesuits speak of Ignatian values, and it’s obvious to me that they were speaking about the way my father taught.”

In his last decade at SI, J.B. taught one class of freshmen for two periods, helping them adjust to life in high school. In 1973, football coach Gil Haskell ’61 created the J.B. Murphy Award, which, each year, the team gives to the SI football player who best exemplifies the Ignatian spirit through inspirational leadership on and off the field. Upon his retirement in 1989, the school honored him by naming the football field “J.B. Murphy Field.”

The Outbreak of War

At 8 a.m. on December 7, 1941, Jack Grealish ’44 was sitting in the pews at Most Holy Redeemer Church for Sunday Mass. When he and his family arrived home, they heard the news that Japan had launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. “We were in shock,” said Grealish. “Everyone was in shock. We didn’t know how to react.” That surprise attack killed thousands of servicemen and launched America into World War II. More than 3,000 SI alumni served in the armed forces and 96 of those men lost their lives.¹

Despite the conflagration, life at SI did not change drastically during the war. Students still worried about exams and who would win the big game. The war intruded upon their high school lives in several ways, however. Teachers and older brothers left to

fight in Africa, Europe and the Pacific Theater. News came back of alumni who had died or had been wounded. Some alumni officers returned to SI to speak to students or visit their teachers. And every day, war ships sailed in and out of the Golden Gate capturing the attention and imagination of the students, some of whom graduated early to enlist.

The December 19, 1941, edition of *The Red and Blue* barely makes mention of America’s entry into the war. The February 14, 1942, edition, however, offered three topical front-page stories. Two of those stories reported on the departure of teachers: David Walker, a history teacher, to the Navy and Fr. Cornelius O’Mara, SJ, to the Chaplain Corps. (Seven other SI alumni also served as chaplains in the war: Lt. Col. William Clasby, Capt. Wilfred Crowley, SJ, Lt. Charles Farrell, Capt. William Hanley, SJ, Capt. Raymond I. McGrorey, SJ, Lt. Col. William J. Reilly, and Lt. Cmdr. Jerome J. Sullivan, SJ.)

The third piece told of a returning alumnus, Richard Treanor ’33, who recounted his rescue at sea. Ten days after the attack at Pearl Harbor, Treanor, a third mate on the *U.S.S. Manini*, found himself swimming for his life after his ship was destroyed by a Japanese submarine 200 miles southeast of Honolulu. “He told of days of hopeless drifting, of praying, of water shortage; how one of their number died before safety was reached. On Christmas Eve a plane circled overhead while Treanor sent a semaphore with a flashlight. He described the jubilation of the men as they looked forward to being rescued on Christmas, the happiest day of their lives. But hope faltered and disappeared as Christmas came and went. The pilot must have seen them, Treanor explains, but nothing materialized.

“One day, two days more they waited. The water ration was shrinking into nothingness and eating the hardtack was as impossible as gulping bricks. Then on the twenty-seventh of December, they spotted another plane, and this time Uncle Sam’s fleet came to the rescue.”

The Red and Blue published numerous items on the war,

Above: SI students in ROTC uniform in 1944. In all, 3,000 SI grads served their country in the Armed Forces in World War II, and 96 died in that conflict. Opposite page: Among those who died was Admiral Daniel Callaghan (SI 1907) who served as commander of Task Force Savo Sea aboard the USS San Francisco, pictured sailing back to port.

and two Jesuits (Mr. Timothy McDonnell, SJ '36, and Fr. Lloyd Burns, SJ '16) launched a new publication in October 1944 — the *G.I. Wildcat*, a monthly newsletter sent to Ignatian alumni serving in the Armed Forces. (This was the first alumni bulletin to be published and prefigured two later alumni publications.)

In the *G.I. Wildcat*'s first issue, the authors reported that of the 400 boys who applied to SI, a record 280 enrolled as freshmen. The Jesuits selected those 280 by having all applicants take an entrance examination for the first time in the school's history. It "seemed to be the only fair way to select the 280 boys that could be accommodated with the limited faculty and limited classroom space. One of the questions on the examination was: 'Why do you wish to attend St. Ignatius High School?' Here is one of the many unusual replies: 'Because I like the Christian Brothers.'"

The one-page, double-sided newsletter reported on visitors, on alumni who had distinguished themselves, and on casualties: "Martin Torti '35 was recently given the Bronze Star for heroism. He was wounded while obtaining ammunition when the supply was exhausted and the squad was under fire." Not all the news was from the front, however. Fr. Burns made sure the alumni kept up with the high school news. In the April 20, 1945, edition, for example, he reported on what may have been the first senior sneak. "Spring Fever has overtaken the City and the boys have their eyes on China Beach and other such spots. A couple of weeks ago, the fever 'got' the senior class so badly that after the First Friday Mass they went AWOL. The TJA (top Jesuit administrator) in the person of the Prefect of Discipline had them sentenced to a full school day on Saturday."

The May 1945 edition had much to celebrate, including "VE Day, Liberated Prisoners, [and] Missing Ignatians Found. We thank God for all of these things. But our war is still only half over, maybe less than that, because it seems a majority of Ignatians are in the Pacific Arena. In the November 1945 edition, Fr. Burns noted that Fr. King, SI's principal, left to serve as dean of faculty at Santa Clara, and that he had been replaced by Fr. Ralph Tichenor '27.

With most alumni back home, Fr. Burns stopped publishing the newsletter in May 1946, but expressed his hope that some sort of alumni publication would continue in the years to come.

Wartime Memories

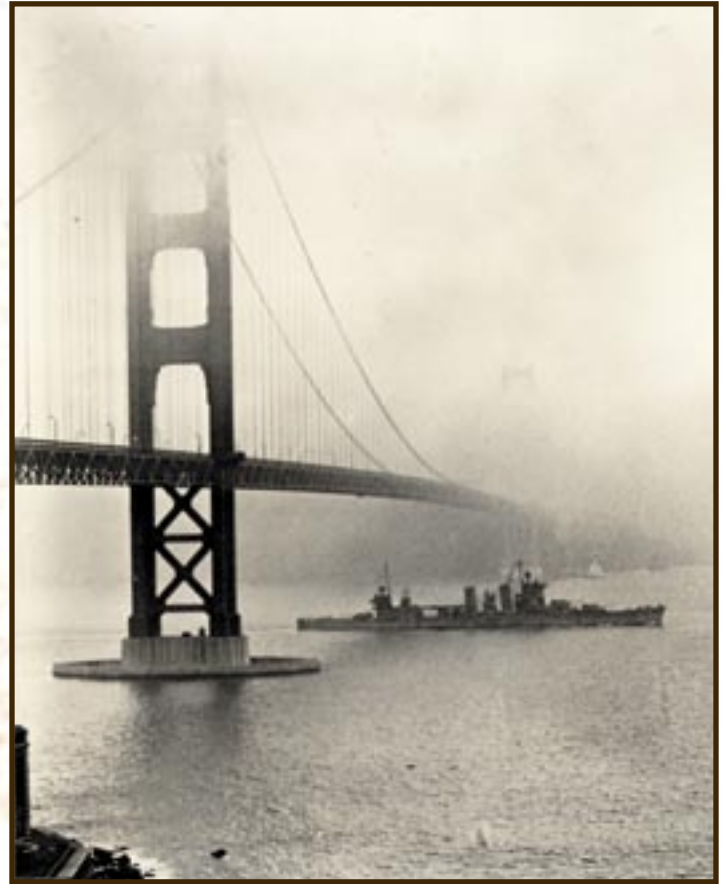
While the war did not intrude often into the lives of SI students, more than a few incidents served to remind Ignatians that they were not a world apart. The school conducted air raid drills and continued to train students in ROTC. For Jack Grealish, the war came home when Bill Telasmanic '37, a star end on the football team and catcher on the baseball team at both SI and USF, died in a plane crash in North Africa in the early days of the war. "Everyone felt his loss," said Grealish. "Every day, we would check the newspapers to read the casualty lists. But we were 16, and we tended to focus on our high school problems."

Grealish recalls one alumnus, a Navy officer, visiting his Latin class, taught by Fr. Lloyd Burns, SJ. "Fr. Burns, who was very proud of his Latin class, asked him if Latin had helped him. The officer gave Fr. Burns a funny look and said, 'It hasn't done me any good at all.' That's not what Fr. Burns wanted to hear."

Val Molkenbuhr '43, while jogging around the Beach Chalet, recalls seeing ships coming in and out of the Golden Gate. "Once in awhile we heard of alumni dying in a battle, and we prayed for them."

Bob Lagomarsino '39 lost about a dozen friends to the war, including his good friend, Dan Hurst '39. "We went to grammar school together, and after he enlisted, we corresponded. My mother was the first to hear that he was missing in action, and later we heard that he had been killed in the South Pacific. I was quite upset. I knew his parents and sister and felt so sorry for them."

Grealish, Molkenbuhr and Lagomarsino enlisted, as did thousands of fellow Ignatians, with many graduating early or leaving before graduating to fight what nearly all considered



to be a just war against brutal dictatorships. "This wasn't like the Korean War," recalled Grealish. "Everyone was 100 percent behind it."

The specific tragedies of each of the 96 SI alumni deaths were spelled out in *Gold Star Ignatians*, a commemorative pamphlet published in 1947 by the school. (The 96 dead listed in that book also have their names printed on a memorial plaque in the Alfred S. Wilsey Library.) Reading through these names and the circumstances of their deaths, we are reminded of the horror of war in its particulars. These men, some barely out of boyhood, died all over the world, from the Arctic waters off Alaska to the deserts of Africa, from the forests of Germany to the islands of the South Pacific.

Lt. Col. James M. Sullivan '10, a doctor with the Reserve Medical Corps, was one of these men. In May 1941, he was called into service and sent to Sternberg General Hospital in Ma-

nila, and then to Base Hospital No. 2 in Bataan. He survived the Bataan Death March and was sent to Cabanatuan and Bilibid Prison Camps. “After surviving three years of imprisonment, he died after reaching Moji, Japan, on January 31, 1945, from fatigue, starvation and wounds received during the sinking of his hospital ship by U.S. forces.” Others died in less dramatic ways, from car accidents to illness to being crushed by falling trees in storms, yet their loss, too, was felt by family and friends.

Among the Ignatian servicemen were numerous war heroes, including Capt. Joseph Golding '36 and Sgt. Roy Bruneman '25, who were awarded Silver Stars posthumously in 1944 for gallantry in action in the South Pacific.

The four most famous Wildcats who served in the war were Rear Admiral Daniel Callaghan (SI 1907), his brother, Admiral William Callaghan '14, General Fred Butler '13 and Ensign William Bruce '35.

Admiral Daniel Callaghan (SI 1907)

Daniel Callaghan was born in San Francisco on July 26, 1892, and raised in Oakland. He graduated from SI in 1907, having attended both the Van Ness Avenue campus and the Shirt Factory in its first year, commuting to school by ferry and train and using that time to memorize “long skeins of Keats and Tennyson, whole cantos from Longfellow and Scott — or figuring out the all but impossible ways Caesar or Cicero had of constructing sentences for his Latin classes.”² At SI, Callaghan was “greatly influenced by [his] Jesuit mentors,” according to *Fighting Admiral: The Story of Daniel Callaghan*. “Dan had the



appearance of being a bit overserious. But actually, in the company of his own crowd, he was jolly enough.... [When] the Ignatian baseball team, which though a secondary [school] affair, took on the junior varsities of the University of California, Santa Clara and Stanford colleges, Dan soon won himself a right fielder's berth. He was also prominent in the 'Gas League' punchball circuit, and

especially after making up his mind about going to Annapolis, he was a constant user of the gymnasium, giving himself a thorough physical workout — a habit that became almost a fault throughout his life.

“But for the most part, Dan at high school concentrated on books.... Striding into Fr. John P. Madden's Cicero class on a fine spring morning, Fr. Woods found Dan Callaghan [standing] up, reciting. Fr. Woods took over the book from the slightly startled mentor and popped a question at the strapping youngster in a purposely unintelligible mumble. Dan did not catch it, of course, and stood nervously waiting. To have asked for a repetition of

the question would have been an admission of lack of attention. After a moment, the Jesuit repeated the question as indistinctly as before. Dan could only guess at what was wanted, and guessed wrong. Hence his answer was wrong.... The result was a severe going over for not having studied his lessons, much to the amazement of his classmates. But Dan took it well... with the reflection that such 'lacings' were good for the soul, though terribly hard on one's sensibilities.”³

Dan also experienced the 1906 earthquake while at home in Oakland. He helped his father organize a “sort of vigilante committee to quiet the neighborhood” and to warn people not to light fires in their fireplaces as many of the chimneys had collapsed. (Sadly, just such a fire kindled the conflagration that destroyed SI College across the bay.)⁴

After leaving SI, Dan attended the Naval Academy, graduating in 1911. His distinguished career was marred by one incident that led to a Courts-Martial for allegedly requisitioning the wrong replacement parts, which made his ship, the *Truxton*, unable to continue its trip. He was acquitted of all charges and restored to duty.

Later, he spent three years at UC Berkeley where he served as professor of naval science in the naval ROTC. Then, in 1938, President Roosevelt asked his physician, Ross McIntire, for a recommendation for a Naval Aide, someone who was a “salt-water sailor,” rather than an administrative figurehead. McIntire had just the man for the job, and recommended Callaghan. For the next three years, he served the president keeping him “posted on the intimacies of naval matters, domestic as well as foreign,” and listening “with intelligence while the President expatiated on the whys and wherefores of Hipper's cruiser tactics at Jutland or the follies of the Russians at Tsushima.” Roosevelt wanted “someone who had the feel of the sea in him, and was more than delighted when he found that Dan was a gunnery man and could talk of fleet maneuvers.”⁵

Callaghan lived aboard the presidential yacht, the *Potomac* while serving the president, and the two became fast friends. When the U.S. entered World War II in 1941, Roosevelt reluctantly let Callaghan leave the *Potomac* for *U.S.S. San Francisco*, and to serve in the Pacific Theatre. Callaghan's final fitness report included this note from FDR: “It is with great regret that I am letting Captain Callaghan leave as my Naval Aide. He has given every satisfaction and has performed duties of many varieties with tact and real efficiency. He has shown a real understanding of the many problems of the service within itself and in relationship to the rest of the Government.”⁶

By this time, Callaghan had earned a reputation as a hometown hero. In *Embattled Dreams: California in War and Peace 1940–1950*, historian Kevin Starr (who attended SI in the 1950s and who serves as California State Librarian), noted that “Callaghan was the pre-eminent military figure of Northern California, especially for Catholics, and he was held in awe by San Franciscans just as Patton was held up by Southern Californians as one who “embodied the best possibilities of the

Left: Adm. Daniel Callaghan received the Medal of Honor posthumously for his bravery during the Battle of Savo Sea. Opposite page: Before the war, he served as Naval Aide to FDR. He lived aboard the USS Potomac where he is pictured with the president, Eleanor Roosevelt, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.



region.... Whereas Patton was privileged, flamboyant, profane, and self-regarding, Callaghan was steady, unassuming, pious (avoiding alcohol...), and thoroughly devoted to the welfare of his men, who tended to call him Uncle Dan behind his back. As Patton was devoted to tanks, Callaghan was devoted to the art of gunnery. While other naval colleagues bespoke the future in terms of airplanes and submarines, Dan Callaghan devoted his career to perfecting the art and science of gunnery from surface ships." Callaghan was also a "tall, solid figure, prematurely gray, a Spencer Tracy look-alike, known to the men of the fleet as well as to the brass as a commandingly steady figure, the representative naval officer of his era."

Callaghan served as captain of the heavy cruiser *U.S.S. San Francisco*, which had escaped serious damage in the attack on Pearl Harbor and then spent six months on Vice Admiral William Halsey's staff. In 1942, he returned to the *San Francisco* as commander of Task Force 65, made up of five cruisers and eight destroyers that fought in the first naval battle of Guadalcanal in November 1942. While aboard the *San Francisco*, Callaghan commanded his ships to sweep the waters around Savo Island on November 11 in preparation to block the arrival of a Japanese invasion fleet and to provide cover for the unloading of Marines. The next day, Callaghan's task force was attacked by 25 enemy torpedo bombers, forcing him to get under way.

The Japanese force consisted of two battleships, *Hiei* and *Kirishima*, one light cruiser and 15 destroyers. On November 12, Callaghan ordered his ships back to Savo to meet the enemy.

Shortly after 1 a.m. on November 13, one of his ships, the *Helena*, detected the Japanese 27,000 yards away, but Callaghan, whose forces were badly outgunned, didn't know the exact location of the enemy as his ships lacked radar.

The Battle of Savo Sea (also known as the Battle of Sealark Channel) began with the Japanese approaching Sealark Channel in three columns. Callaghan made a daring move and took his fleet, with the *San Francisco* in the lead, between the two outside Japanese columns and head-on toward the third column. (Picture Callaghan's fleet sailing into the middle of an inverted V.) Callaghan hoped to sail through the enemy columns and fire at them before they had time to lower the elevation of their guns. Once past, he hoped "to pit speed, target angle, range and rapidity of fire against bulk and force."⁷

At 1:42 a.m., with one ship 3,400 yards away, Callaghan gave the order to fire torpedoes, later ordering, "We want the big ones." Three minutes later, Japanese searchlights spotted the American fleet and the battle was underway. Callaghan ordered guns on both sides to open fire, hitting the *Yudachi* 3,700 yards away. The Americans were surrounded, firing from both port and starboard. As Starr writes, "Maneuvering was difficult, and the *San Francisco* lacked the latest radar; but whether this was the cause for what followed or rather whether what followed was due in some measure to Callaghan's gunnery-oriented spirit of the attack, the American force literally sailed into the middle of the Japanese force, as if running a gauntlet. What ensued was perhaps the last ship-to-ship naval engagement in military history as the American ships and the

Japanese ships fought through direct searchlight-guided gunfire.” It was also the largest night battle in naval history.

At 2 a.m. Callaghan’s flagship was struck by a salvo from the *Hiei*, and the bridge took a direct hit from a 14-inch shell immediately killing Callaghan and three of his staff officers and mortally wounding Capt. Cassin Young, the ship’s commanding officer. Despite the loss of bridge and commander, the ship continued to fight on, moving closer to the enemy so its 8-inch guns would be more of an even match with the 14-inch Japanese guns. *The San Francisco* took 47 hits and its crew had to extinguish 25 fires. It stayed afloat, however, and managed to sink one Japanese ship and damage several other ships badly enough to allow an American submarine to sink them. Had *The San Francisco* and the other ships in the task force failed, Guadalcanal would probably have fallen again to the Japanese. The badly damaged ship eventually returned to port under its own power thanks to the quick actions of Herbert E. Schonland, who taught at SI in the 1947–48 academic year and then at Santa Clara University.

Schonland, who retired as a Rear Admiral, also won the Medal of Honor for his actions in that battle. With Callaghan’s death, and the death of two other officers, Schonland assumed command of the *San Francisco*. The second deck compartment of the ship had taken on water, nearly sinking it, when in waist-deep water, Schonland secured the deck by pumping off and draining the water, working with only flashlights to help him see. (The bridge of the *San Francisco* is on display at Land’s End above the Cliff House in a memorial to Admiral Callaghan and the other Americans who died that day on the *San Francisco*.)

Word came to President Roosevelt of Callaghan’s death on November 16, 1942. “There was no one willing to convey the news to the President. When finally word was brought to him officially, he gasped in unaffected consternation. ‘I knew it,’ he said. ‘I knew Dan was too brave a man to live. But I’ll bet, as he set his course straight for the enemy, he was thinking of Dewey and Manila, and our constant discussions of such actions.’”

The next day, FDR sent a note to Dan’s wife, Mary, that read, “I am very sure I need not tell you of the sense of great personal loss to me. Dan and I had a very wonderful relationship during the years he was at the White House. I took great pride in him, and I must have been nearly as happy as he over his new command. In spite of our grief we will always remember a gallant soul who died leading his ship and his command to a great victory.”⁸

Callaghan received the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions that day. His citation reads as follows: “For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty.... Although out-balanced in strength and numbers by a desperate and determined enemy, Rear Admiral Callaghan, with ingenious tactical skill and superb coordination of the units under his command, led his forces into battle against tremendous odds, thereby contributing decisively to the rout of a powerful invasion fleet, and to the consequent frustration of a formidable Japanese

offensive. While faithfully directing close-range operations in the face of furious bombardment by superior enemy firepower, he was killed on the bridge of his flagship. His courageous initiative, inspiring leadership, and judicious foresight in a crisis of grave responsibility were in keeping with the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in the defense of his country.”

In that same battle, the *U.S.S. Juneau*, part of Callaghan’s task force, had been sunk by a torpedo, hitting the port side near the forward fire room where ammunition was stored, destroying the ship in a giant fireball and killing the five Sullivan brothers. Only 10 sailors survived that ordeal.

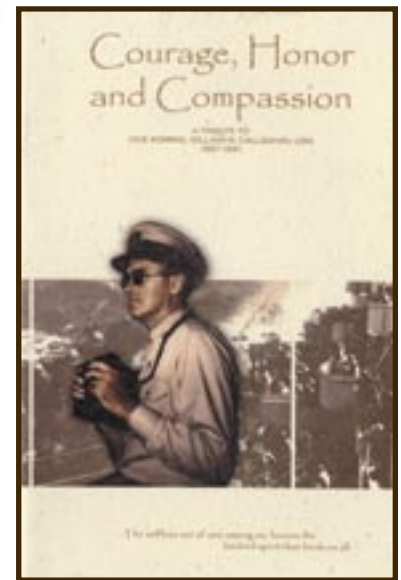
The U.S. Naval Academy later named one of its rooms in honor of Admiral Daniel Callaghan, the hero who helped win the Battle of Guadalcanal, and American Legion Post No. 592 was instituted in his honor on March 23, 1944. On July 24, 2004, the *U.S.S. Potomac* Association celebrated Daniel Callaghan Day with a series of lectures, official proclamations and a Bay cruise aboard the *Potomac*, the boat Adm. Callaghan served on as FDR’s aide. More than 20 members of the Callaghan clan attended that celebration, including Caitlin Callaghan ’99, Larkin Callaghan ’01 and Connor Callaghan ’08, great-grandchildren of William Callaghan ’14, Daniel’s brother.

Admiral William Callaghan ’14

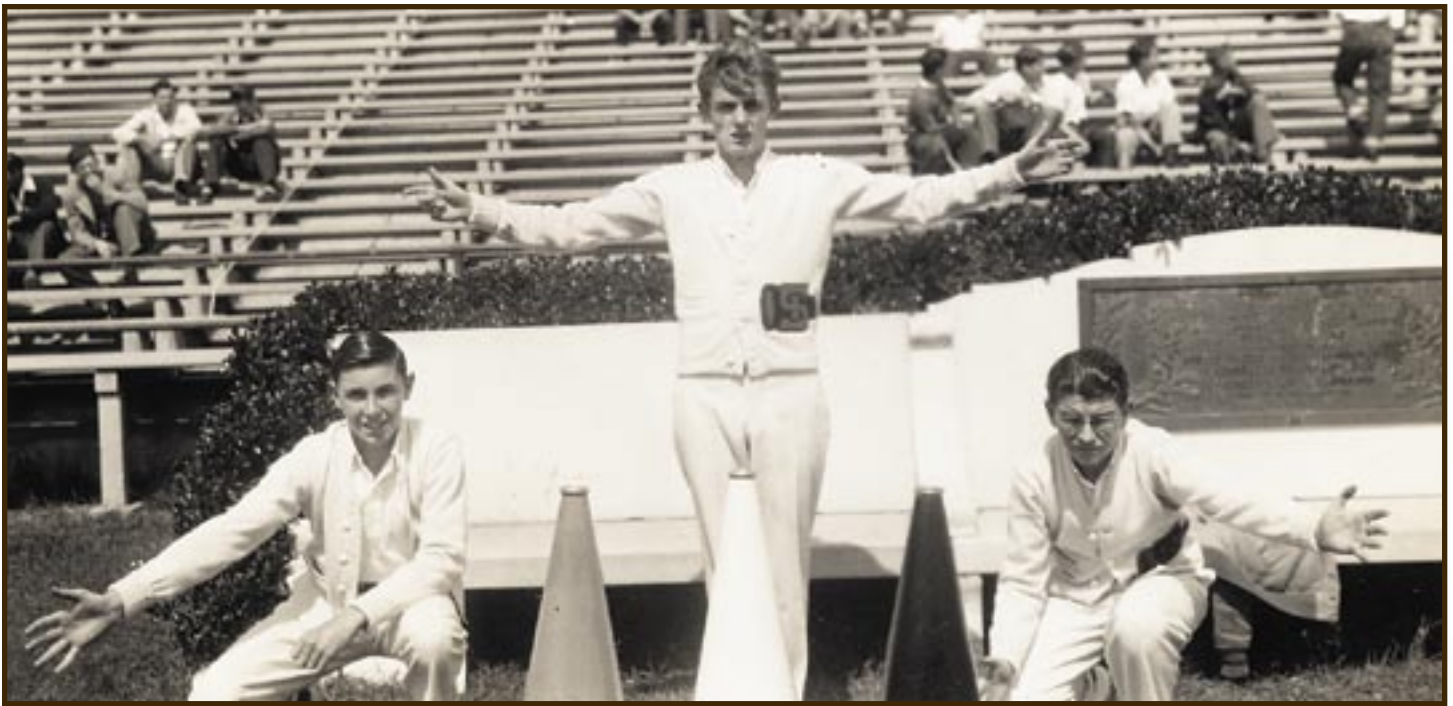
Dan Callaghan’s brother, William, was also an admiral in the Navy and served as the commander of the *U.S.S. Missouri*, the battleship on which Japanese representatives surrendered to the Allies in Tokyo Bay to mark the end of the war. After attending SI, he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1918 and served in World War I on a destroyer. In 1936, he received his first command, that of the *U.S.S. Reuben James* (later sunk by a German U-Boat in 1940), and later joined the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations in 1939, where he served as logistics officer for the commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet, receiving the Legion of Merit for his efforts.

He commissioned the *Missouri* in 1944 and led it in operations against Tokyo, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. During the Battle of Okinawa on April 11, 1945, Callaghan’s ship came under kamikaze attack. Fortunately, the 500-pound bomb aboard the plane failed to detonate, but the pilot was killed instantly when his plane crashed into the battleship.

Crewmembers put out the fire around the plane and found the broken body of the Japanese pilot lying on the deck. The crew felt anger and outrage, but Callaghan ordered them to prepare the pilot’s body for burial with military honors, “an unprecedented-



Left: Admiral William Callaghan was honored in 2001 for the respect he showed to the body of a Japanese kamikaze pilot during WWII. Opposite page: Yell leaders in the 1940s. Photo courtesy of Dick Raffetto '44.



ed act for an enemy in time of war.” Some of the crew grumbled, but others respected Callaghan for doing the right thing. Crewmembers worked at night to create a Japanese flag to drape over the body, and the ship’s chaplain offered the prayer, “Commend his body to the deep,” while the *Missouri*’s crew saluted and an honor guard fired their rifles to honor this fallen pilot.⁹

“Interestingly, during a September 1998 reunion of former U.S.S. *Missouri* crewmembers at the battleship’s new home in Pearl Harbor, many of those who served in World War II told members of the Association that, in retrospect, they felt Captain Callaghan acted correctly,” according to Patrick Dugan of the U.S.S. *Missouri* Memorial Association.¹⁰

Callaghan went on to serve as commander of Naval Forces in the Far East during the Korean War and retired in 1957. He died July 8, 1991, at the age of 93. On April 12, 2001, he was honored in memoriam at a ceremony aboard the *Missouri*, docked at Pearl Harbor, to commemorate the respect he paid to the Japanese pilot. Since kamikaze pilots wore no identification, the Japanese Navy narrowed the identity of the pilot to three possibilities, and descendants of each of these families attended the ceremony. One family brought water taken from the area where a U.S. submarine had recently surfaced, accidentally sinking a Japanese fishing boat, and that water was poured into Pearl Harbor from the *Missouri*.

General Fred Butler ’13

Brigadier General Fred Butler ’13 was another SI graduate who played an integral role in the war. After three years in the college division, he graduated from West Point in 1918 and from the U.S. Army Engineer Schools in 1921. He remained in the U.S. Army until his retirement in 1953.

He worked in China and Outer Mongolia with the Army Corps of Engineers and taught at West Point before returning to San Francisco in 1927. He helped to create Treasure Island for the 1939–40 Golden Gate International Exposition and super-

vised roadwork on Yerba Buena during his stay here. After the fair ended, Treasure Island was sold to the U.S. Navy and became the base of operations for the war in the Pacific Theatre.

In World War II, he was involved in both the African and Italian campaigns and the invasion of Southern France. For his efforts, he received the Distinguished Service Cross, the Legion of Merit, the Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. France honored him with the Croix de Guerre and the Legion of Honor, and Italy awarded him the Cross of Valor. (The October 20, 1944, edition of the *G.I. Wildcat* reported that “Brig. Gen. Fred Butler has been making the headlines lately. He is the leader of ‘Butler’s Task Force,’ driving up France to Berlin. His son Bill Butler is a member of the senior class at the High School.”)

After the war he served as manager of the San Francisco International Airport and as a commissioner for the SFFD. In 1962, Pope John XXIII honored him with the title of Knight of Malta and in 1965, SI gave him the Christ the King Award.

The End of the War & The Birth of the Bruce

After the end of World War II, SI and SH thought of a fitting memorial to the fallen alumni of both schools: a perpetual athletic trophy, given to the school that won at least two of the three games in football, basketball and baseball. This trophy, named for SI’s Bill Bruce ’35 and SH’s Jerry Mahoney, would also commemorate the oldest athletic high school competition west of the Rocky Mountains.

In *The Red and Blue* of January 29, 1947, reporter Watt Clinch ’47 predicted that “this trophy, as time goes by, will doubtless come to mean as much to SI and Sacred Heart as the legendary Axe means to Stanford and California and the Old Oaken Bucket means to Indiana and Purdue.”

The *Chronicle*’s Ken Garcia wrote an article about this trophy in 2001, in which he noted that “Bill Bruce was a gregarious, sharp teenager, who came to SI in 1931 on a scholarship as a vir-

tual unknown. Bruce was an orphan who attended St. Vincent's School near San Rafael, commuting across the Bay by boat. He was a fine student and a good athlete who started as a lineman — defense and offense were not specified in those days since everybody played both ways.”

The February 26, 1947, edition of *The Red and Blue* added that while at SI, Bruce “repeated a year of Greek so he could raise his average from a 92 to a 95,” and was later elected salutatorian for his class.

“Bruce never made All-City,” wrote Garica, “but his charisma and quick mind charmed his classmates who elected him student body president. When he graduated in 1935, Bruce went to Santa Clara University, where he started on the Broncos team that beat LSU 21-14 in the Sugar Bowl. He spent his summers working as a park director at Grattan Playground in the Haight, before enlisting in the Navy in 1940, where he became an outstanding fighter pilot.

“‘Bill was a natural leader, extremely popular, who just had this air of command,’ said Fr. Harry Carlin, SJ, SI’s executive vice president, who was one of Bruce’s classmates. ‘He was a model for students then and he’s a model for them now.’

“Bruce flew more than 50 combat missions in Europe during the early ’40s before being called back by the Navy to train young pilots at the Naval Air Station in Pasco, Washington, part of the Tri-Cities area in the eastern part of the state that combines desert terrain with steep canyons. And there, on April 14, 1943, Bruce, with a young trainee at the controls, refused to bail out when the pilot could not pull their plane out of a nosedive, and the two men were instantly killed. Bruce was 25.”

Garcia added that SH’s Jerry Mahoney, who grew up in the Richmond District, was tall enough to start on his school’s varsity basketball team as a freshman in 1941, “a feat so uncommon that it stands out almost as much as the fact that he made first team All-City in basketball and football his senior year. ‘He was one of the best athletes in the city,’ said Jack Grealish, ‘and I know, because I played with him and against him.’

“Mahoney enlisted in the Navy and, after boot camp, was assigned to a merchant ship for combat duty. In June 1944, just hours after the *Denny B. Plant* set out from the Atlantic coast, the ship was torpedoed by a German submarine. Every man on board was killed. Mahoney was 18.”

Even though the trophy match was not inaugurated until 1947, the schools mark the first year of the match-up as the 1945–46 academic year to commemorate the end of WWII. SH took the trophy that year, and SI the next. In all, SI has kept the trophy 40 times as of 2005, and SH 18 times.

In 1967 SI joined the West Catholic Athletic League and SH remained in the AAA until 1969. For two years, the schools split ownership of the Trophy, though they didn’t play each other on a regular basis during those years. Competition resumed in the 1969–70 academic year when SH joined the WCAL. By the end of that year, the schools had tied in football and split the other two games. SI kept the Trophy that year as it had been the last team to win it back in 1967.

Few traditions capture the joy of high school as this rivalry between SI and SH. If you go to Kezar Stadium, Big Rec Field or Kezar Pavilion for a Bruce-Mahoney match-up, you will find emotions tuned to a fever-pitch, voices hoarse from shouting and

athletes primed to play at their peak. You will also find something more — a community of parents, alumni, students and teachers who are part of something special, something that transcends the specific time and place of one game and that connects them to the ideals of service and tradition that both Bill Bruce and Jerry Mahoney stood for in their brief lives and that they upheld in their deaths.

The Age of Athletes

The hardships of World War II brought students together to form some of the closest communities in school history. To this day, alumni from the 1940s gather to talk about old times, just as grads from other eras do, but their spirit and their affection for the school seems stronger, forged from the suffering and prayer that were part of that era.

The 1940s also proved to be a watershed decade for Wildcat sports. The decade that saw the start of the Bruce-Mahoney Trophy games also saw the inauguration of the John E. Brophy Award along with heated basketball match-ups with Kevin O’Shea ’43 leading the Wildcats to a celebrated city championship over Lowell and the varsity football team defeating Polytechnic on Thanksgiving Day 1945, 13–7 for the city championship, led by coach John Golden. His team appeared before a crowd of 30,000 at Kezar Stadium with Poly the favorite, having won the Northern California Championship the previous year. But an SI fullback, senior Gordon Machlachlan, helped SI win 13–7 with two touchdowns, including a 48-yard run to the end zone. The basketball team recaptured the AAA crown in 1947, led by coach Phil Woolpert and remarkable play by George Moscone ’47, Cap Lavin ’48 and All-City Larry Rebholtz ’47. (Cap Lavin, recalls classmate John Savant, “was a gifted passer who could get the ball to a teammate under the basket leaving his opponents flat-footed.” Lavin went on to become a legendary coach and teacher in Marin and helped to start the Bay Area Writing Project at UC Berkeley.) SI’s outstanding “mermen,” who included Phil Guerrero, Jerry Brucca and Jack McGrowan, helped SI’s swimming team finish first in AAA competition in 1946 through 1948.

“This was war time, and outside of the San Francisco Seals, there were no professional teams competing,” recalled Grealish, who was named to the San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame in 1995. “The sports pages were pretty tough to fill. More often than not, you’d see banner headlines in the *Chronicle* reading ‘SI beats Balboa,’ followed by a blow-by-blow description of the game. This attention, and the fact that we beat Lowell in the final seconds in 1943, lent an artificial importance to high school sports. We had a tremendous amount of school spirit. It wasn’t uncommon to see 800 SI students walking down Stanyan Street to Kezar to watch a basketball game. We’d fill an entire side of Kezar with white shirts, and our games would draw capacity crowds of 6,600 fans. I don’t know how else to describe that spirit except as a big togetherness that we all felt. Maybe it was because the war was hanging over our heads. Perhaps, because of that spirit, we experienced a lot of success then.”

The success was also due to some talented coaches. Alex Schwarz, who served as head varsity football coach from 1942 to 1944, joined the athletic department in September 1940 after a successful career playing for USF. At one point, he coached

football and basketball for SI — the sports he excelled in while at Mission High and USF. (Schwarz made the All-Pacific Coast football team in 1936 and 1937 and served as captain of the '37 squad.)

While Schwarz was finishing his degree at USF, coaching frosh football there and working at the Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island (running the lost and found department), his close friend Fr. Ray Feeley, SJ, told him of job openings for football coaches in Los Angeles and Denver. “My wife said she wasn’t about to leave San Francisco,” said Schwarz. Then in 1940, Fr. Feeley called him again to tell him of another job. “This one you can’t turn down,” he told me. “It’s at SI.” The starting monthly pay: \$80.

His first year, Schwarz served as the football team’s line coach under Red Vaccaro, and in his second year, he took over the JV team. In 1942, when Vaccaro became the athletic director, Schwarz took over the head coach’s job. He coached standout players, including Bob Mintun, Don Gordon, Val Molkenbuhr, Charley Helmer, Dan Coleman, Dick Cashman, Bill and Bob Corbett, Jim Canelo and Jack Burke, who was also a champion discus thrower. However, though his expertise was in football, Schwarz gained more fame for coaching basketball when his 1943 team turned in an undefeated season.

Schwarz’s basketball career began when one coach left to join the California Highway Patrol mid-season, and Schwarz stepped in, getting advice from Bob Kleckner at USF. “SI had not won a single game that season before I took over, and it didn’t win a game when I first started coaching.” Despite the regular season losses, Schwarz’s team went on to win the Catholic school tournament at St. Mary’s College that year.

In 1942, Schwarz’s team featured the skillful play of John LoSchiavo ’42 (later to become president of USF) and came in second in the league, losing to Poly. “When I came back to school, I saw the principal, Fr. King, who said, “’Tis well we lost. The boys were getting too excited.” I responded: “You mean to tell me that you want your debating teams to come in second?”

Schwarz coached without an on-campus gym. He reserved the gym at Everett Junior High on 17th and Church Streets for his basketball team, but with school letting out at 3:15 p.m., students would take an hour by bus to get to the gym, leaving them less than an hour for practice. To speed up their trip, Schwarz bought a 1936 Ford panel truck and put seats in the back to carry two teams and manager Harry “Dutch” Olivier ’44 (later to become a Jesuit) to the gym, cutting travel time to 15 minutes.

The opportunity arose in 1943 to buy a bus when Student Body President Val Molkenbuhr ’43 convinced his father and uncle to make a donation to the school. “It was a goodly amount, but not quite enough for a new bus,” said Schwarz. He later saw an ad for used Army buses and drove down to San Luis Obispo to inspect them. There he ran into a mechanic he knew from the city who told him to buy a certain bus, as it had a brand-new engine. “I figured with the sale of the truck and the donation, I could swing it,” said Schwarz. “I came back and told

Fr. King. He had to think it over. A few days later, he told me that my request had been denied. ‘You’re spoiling the kids,’ he told me. ‘No Jesuit school has a bus, not even USF.’”

Schwarz’s reflection on that decision was simple. “Those were interesting years.”

Despite the lack of sophisticated transportation, the 1943 team went undefeated. “You have

no idea how exciting that was,” said Schwarz, who was carried, along with O’Shea, on the shoulders of rooters to the dressing room. The starting five that year included Kevin O’Shea, Harvey Christensen, Jack Scharfen, Jim Beeson and Tom Flaherty.

O’Shea wasn’t the only great athlete to be influenced by Schwarz. Jack Grealish ’44, a four-sport student, used to play baseball and then have Schwarz drive him in his truck to a track meet, with Grealish changing uniforms in the cab.

Schwarz spotted another great athlete, Joe McNamee ’44, playing intramural basketball at SI. “I saw him playing hunch at noontime and asked him to come out for the team. He said he couldn’t because he had size 14 feet and couldn’t find sneakers big enough to fit him. I called a sporting goods store in the city, and they told me to try a store in Oakland, which did stock shoes that size. I drove there, bought the shoes and gave them to Joe. He joined the team and turned out to be a good player for SI and USF.” McNamee eventually played professionally for the Rochester Royals in the 1950–51 season.

Schwarz also had high praise for Rene Herrerias ’44, who in February 1944 against the Lincoln Mustangs, was the first lightweight player ever to score 27 points in a single game. “In those days, an entire team might score 25 points in one game.” Herrerias later went on to great fame coaching for SI (and later UC Berkeley), leading the Wildcats to four AAA championships (1951 and 1954–56) and two Tournament of Champions victories in 1954 and 1955.

In 2004, Schwarz was inducted into the San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame for his talented coaching at SI, Mission and City College.



Football players in 1948.

The Pride of SI: Charlie Silvera

Frank McGloin '25, who started coaching baseball in 1930 (winning an AAA championship his first year), ended his career as varsity baseball coach in 1942, though he continued to be an avid supporter of SI until his death in 1994. (Each year since 1995, one junior varsity baseball player receives the Frank McGloin Award in honor of this great Ignatian.)

McGloin had many superb players, including pitchers John Collins and Buzz Meagher and first baseman Harvey Christensen, all of whom earned first-team all-league honors. (Christensen '43 also earned all-league honors in basketball. Collins pitched a no-



hitter against Balboa in 1938 and earned the league pitching title. Meagher started a triple-play as pitcher in 1939.)

But the most celebrated of them all was Charlie Silvera '42 who went on to become a catcher for the Yankees between 1948 and 1956. As such, he was one of eight Yankees to win five consecutive World Series and six in all. However, Silvera only played in one of those games (in 1949) as he was backup to Yogi Berra, one of the Yankee's greatest players. Still, he served his team with distinction, mainly helping to warm up pitchers in the bullpen. He roomed with Mickey Mantle and Joe DiMaggio, and he traveled on Billy Martin's staff from job to job during that manager's volatile career.

Silvera began playing baseball at Mission Dolores School, and he nearly went to Sacred Heart. "But Bob Dunnigan, who lived down the street, talked to my mother and made sure I went to SI to play for Frank McGloin, who was a great coach. He had a wonderful temperament and was great with kids."

At SI, Silvera played on the varsity team in each of his four

years, spending most of the time as catcher. After graduation, he signed with the Yankees, and along with Jerry Coleman and Bob Cherry — Lowell seniors also signed by the Yankees — he took a train on June 20 to Wellsville, NY, to play on the PONY League there in a Yankee farm club for one season.

In 1943, he entered the service and played baseball for three years at McClellan Field in Sacramento on the same team as Joe DiMaggio before being transferred to Hawaii, where he continued to play ball with the 7th Air Force.

After the war, he spent several years on farm teams before seeing major league action for the Yankees for the last four games of 1948 to replace an injured catcher. He stayed with the Yankees while they won seven Pennants and six World Series — five of them in his first five years with the team, from 1949–1953, a feat yet to be repeated. (After his fifth World Series ring, he and some of the others asked for silver cigarette cases.)

His teammates called him "Swede," a nickname given him by John Swanson, the owner of the Mission Bowl. Swanson didn't care that Silvera was Portugese-Irish, only that he had blond, wavy hair. "Everyone playing ball in the Mission District had a nickname, and that name stuck with me."

Silvera didn't mind warming the bench watching Yogi Berra play. "After awhile, I tried to hide so they wouldn't discover me. I had sat on the bench so long, I was afraid my tools had grown rusty." During double-headers, Berra played the first game, and Silvera would step in for the nightcap. In 1957, the Yankees sold Silvera to the Cubs, and a badly sprained ankle on Memorial Day that year ended his career.

He spent the next several years managing farm teams for the Yankees and the Pirates and then scouted for the Washington Senators until 1968. Billy Martin then asked him to join his team of coaches, and he followed him to Minnesota, Texas and Detroit. "He kept getting fired, and I'd be fired along with him. After 1975, I told him I didn't want to be fired anymore." With that, Silvera returned to scouting and has worked for the Yankees, Brewers, A's, Marlins, Reds and Cubs.

In 2003 he celebrated the 50-year anniversary of the Yankees' five-straight World Series victories and his 62nd year in baseball. If you go to a Giants' game, you can still see him in the seats scouting for talent.

"I always felt that I was born in the greatest city in the world, lived in the greatest district in that city and played for the best team ever in baseball with the greatest catcher who ever lived. And I had an excellent education at SI. I succeeded because of the discipline that started at home and then continued at SI and in the service. That discipline really helped me with the Yankees. We all felt that there are major league ballplayers and then there are Yankees. We felt the same camaraderie on that team as I still feel for my SI classmates — guys like Fr. John LoSchiavo, SJ, and Bill McDonnell."

At his 50-year reunion, Charlie Silvera made this comment about his years at SI: "Great classmates, great school, great teachers and great baseball coach."

(At his class's 63rd reunion in 2005, Silvera presented Fr. Sauer with his SI block for the school archives.)

Silvera wasn't the only major-leaguer to attend SI. Jimmy Mangan '47 played with the Pirates in 1952 and 1954 and with the New York Giants in 1956. Don Bosch '65 played with the

Pirates in 1966, the Mets in 1967 and 1968 and the Expos in 1969. And Allan Gallagher, who played third base for the Giants from 1970–1973, and who finished his career with the Angels, attended SI for part of his high school years before he went on to Mission High School where he became AAA Player of the Year. He returned to the Jesuit fold when he enrolled at SCU.

An Original '49er

Eddie Forrest '39, who died in 2001 a month shy of his 80th birthday, was one of the original members of the San Francisco '49ers. Forrest graduated from Presidio Middle School before coming to SI, where he excelled in basketball and football. At 5-feet, 11-inches and 215 pounds, he wasn't the biggest linebacker SI had ever seen, but he was effective. He made the All-City team during his last three years with the Wildcats, playing for George Malley, and was chosen to play in the high school version of the East-West game, which pitted the best East Bay high school athletes against their San Francisco and Peninsula counterparts. He went on to SCU where he played offensive guard and linebacker for Coach Buck Shaw. He later enlisted during World War II and served as a paratrooper in Europe. In 1944, the Green Bay Packers drafted him, but because he was in the service, the draft wasn't binding. "I was away from home so much, I didn't want to go to Wisconsin to play," he said in a 1992 *Genesis* interview. Then Buck Shaw, who served as the first '49ers' coach, signed him while he was still in Germany. Two years later, when the Niners played their first game, Forrest was in uniform, playing center, guard and linebacker for two seasons in the All-America Football Conference. He then returned to SCU where he coached with Len Casanova until 1951 following the Broncos' victory over Kentucky in the Orange Bowl.

"I can remember when he used to practice with his team at the Polo Fields," said classmate Bob Lagomarsino. "The '49ers were 33 strong in those days. Eddie was a real rugged guy, but he weighed less than 220 pounds. In those days, you didn't have to be a behemoth to play football."

A member of the San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame and SCU's Athletic Hall of Fame, Forrest always spoke fondly of his days as a '49er. "Most of us were from the Bay Area, and we all knew each other before the '49ers," he said in a 1996 interview in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "So we were a very, very close team. Since there were no other major-league pro teams here then, we were sort of quasi- or semi-celebrities. People knew us. Anybody in the Bay Area interested in sports knew about the '49ers in those days. From the beginning, we got good crowds. We all lived in Parkmerced. The wives knew each other and socialized together. It was a very happy existence."

Later, Forrest was active as a volunteer with the NFL Alumni Association, and he built a successful career as a savings and loan executive, retiring in the 1990s to spend time with his family.

"He couldn't make too many of our annual reunions because of his bad knees," said Lagomarsino. "But he did come to the 40-year and 50-year reunions. He led the class in singing the fight song. He was one of the most popular guys in the class."

SI had several other athletes play pro football, including Dan Fouts '69, who made the NFL Hall of Fame as quarterback for the San Diego Chargers. Look for more on him in Chapter 10.



Kevin O'Shea '43

Everyone who went to SI in the 1940s knows the name Kevin O'Shea. The great basketball player, who died in 2003, made the All-City Team in his junior and senior years, helped SI earn a number-one ranking in California and led SI to a 1-point victory over Lowell for the AAA title in his senior year.

His classmate Val Molkenbuhr, student body president then, was part of the sold-out crowd that night at Kezar. When O'Shea sank the winning basket in the last second, Molkenbuhr rushed to the locker room and took a shower with the team. "My tears flowed like the shower water," he said.

Looking at the headlines from the *Chronicle* and *Examiner* in those days, you would think O'Shea was the only player on the team. "Wildcats Plus O'Shea Bubble Past Bewildered Bears 36-9," "O'Shea Does It—Ignatians Win!" and "O'Shea Shines in Wildcat Triumph," read a few of the headlines from the 1942-43 season.

For the game against Lowell, sports writer Bob Brachman proclaimed that "Irish Kevin O'Shea is one of the great athletes to enter San Francisco High School portals. The brilliant SI cager proved this last night before 5,000 fans in Kezar Pavilion when, with 10 seconds remaining, he stole the ball from a pileup, dribbled 50 feet through a host of Lowell Indians and tanked a field goal that gave the Ignatians a 23-22 triumph. When the gun sounded signaling the Wildcats' fourth straight victory and the first defeat for Lowell, St. Ignatius rooters lifted coach Alex Schwarz to their shoulders, hoisted O'Shea with him, and triumphantly paraded them to the dressing quarters." That win gave SI its first city crown in 16 years.

After leaving SI, O'Shea went to Notre Dame briefly, and then left to serve in the Coast Guard during the war. He

Opposite page: Charlie Silvera played catcher for the Yankees and won six World Series with the team. Above: Kevin O'Shea (center, with ball) sank the winning basket in the last second to beat Lowell for the city championship in 1943.

returned to Notre Dame in 1948 where he played until 1950, earning All-American honors in each of his three years there.

In an obituary published by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, former USF player and coach Ross Guidice called O'Shea a "great defensive ballplayer [who was] really quick. And he had an unusual shot — he kind of just spun the ball up there."

After Notre Dame, O'Shea played three years in the NBA for the Minneapolis Lakers, the Milwaukee Hawks and the Baltimore Bullets. Despite being only 6-feet, 1-inch, he was able to score against taller players from inside the key according to John "Joe" McNamee '44, who played with O'Shea on the Bullets. (McNamee also played for the Rochester Royals in the 1950–51 season.)

In his *Chronicle* obituary, O'Shea's son Brian '69 said his father's proudest moment "was the night when he and four other Baltimore Bullets, including Bay Area legend Don Barksdale, played an entire game [which they won] without a substitute, the first and only time that has happened in the NBA."

After leaving basketball in 1953, he entered the insurance business. He made a brief return to basketball in the early 1960s when he became general manager of the short-lived San Francisco Saints in the American Basketball League and coached *Examiner* basketball camps.

In 1966, he made a foray into politics when Mayor John F. Shelley appointed him to the Board of Supervisors. He lost in his 1968 election bid after initially being declared the winner. "He was too nice a guy to be good in politics," said McNamee in the *Chronicle* story.

His wife, Jeanne O'Shea, said that her husband was "always proud of his association with St. Ignatius High School and St. Ignatius College Prep. One of his favorite stories is that he learned how to study at SI, although his grades did not always indicate that. He liked to say that the basic foundation he received at SI prepared him for Notre Dame and the business world." O'Shea and his wife had five children — Mary Anne, Brian '69, Timothy '71, Kevin '76 and Catherine Franceschi.

In addition to O'Shea and McNamee, two other Wildcats played professional basketball. Fred LaCour '56, who played with the St. Louis Hawks from 1960–62 and the Warriors the following year, tied an AAA record in his junior year at SI against Galileo, scoring 29 points. Also, Bob Portman '65, a first-round draft pick from Creighton, played with the Warriors between 1969 and 1973. (More on these two players later in the book.)

The John Brophy Award

When Kevin O'Shea was leading his team to the city championship, he was doing it, in part, for classmate John Brophy '43, who died that February. As a freshman, Brophy developed a serious illness, and doctors had to amputate his leg. He regained his health and took part in the Sodality, Sanctuary Society, debate team and CSF. He also served as a



student body officer, a writer for *The Red and Blue* and manager of the swim team, earning membership into the Block Club.

Brophy suffered a relapse in November of his senior year, and the basketball team dedicated its season to him. He died on February 10, 1943. At the end of the year, the Block Club, spurred on by its president, Don Gordon '43, created the John E. Brophy Award to honor this exemplar of Ignatian values. Harvey Christensen '43 was the first recipient, chosen because he modeled Brophy's "loyalty, integrity and unselfish dedication." Christensen made a name for himself as "the greatest natural athlete in the circuit, and without a peer in his position," according to one *Chronicle* reporter. "He looks like an edition of Paul Waner. Bats .536. Can play any position in the field. A heady fielder. A born leader." Christensen also made a name for himself as a star basketball player and swimmer, and earned All-City honors in all three sports. After high school he played for the St. Louis Brown's minor league team from 1949–51 before serving as a baseball coach at USF and Lincoln, where he eventually became principal. The San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame inducted him in 1993.

Other Sports

Track, swimming, tennis and boxing rounded out the sports program at SI in the 1940s, with golf resurrecting in 1949. Frank Zanazzi, a "curly-haired, Scotch-burred" track coach, came to SI in 1946 after serving as a U.S. Olympics trainer. In his first year, he led SI to a divisional championship but fell just short of taking the AAA title.

A Tangled Tale of Publications

Despite the war, despite the athletic milestones, high school life continued in the 1940s to be filled with the day-to-day events that never seem to change from decade to decade. These events were recorded in *The Red and Blue* until June 1, 1948, when the newspaper printed its last copy. According to Warren White '39, the moderator of the first *Inside SI*, *The Red and Blue* did not return "partly because it was expensive, and partly because its news was quite old by the time it was published."

Uncle Frank

The school also had a new publication that was gaining favor: *The Ignatian* (not to be confused with the yearbook of the same name). In 1945, the school published a 36-page literary magazine containing “a student-composed Greek oration, ten types of literary expression, [and] a number of fine-line illustrations.”¹¹ In 1947, the literary magazine became a news magazine, and ran on a quarterly basis until 1950. This publication modeled its design on *Time* magazine; sadly, there was “an uncertain period spent reconnoitering with *Time* about copyrights” in 1947, according to the annual, and it changed its look to avoid legal action.

Another publication, the school yearbook, resurfaced a year later, also calling itself the *Ignatian*. (The school abandoned the name *The Heights*, which it had called its yearbook from 1928 to 1932.)

Replacing *The Red and Blue* was a one-page mimeographed sheet that called itself *Inside SI*, published weekly by the English students of Warren White '39 beginning in 1949 “as a practical task for his Journalism class... reviewing the past week and previewing the week to come,” with Bob Amsler '49 as the first editor. White, who taught at SI between 1948 and 1955, volunteered to start the newspaper “so I wouldn't have to supervise JUG,” he said in a 2003 interview. The magazine was able to succeed where *The Red and Blue* failed. It published quickly because, as an in-house publication, it did not require review by a professed Jesuit priest. “The concern was that *The Red and Blue* went off campus to other schools in an exchange program and its contents needed to be vetted to insure that they reflected properly the AMDG mission of both SI and of the Order itself,” said White. “Fr. Harrington had the misfortune of having the censor duties added to his already considerable responsibilities, and he probably gave them a low priority. In any case, a *Red and Blue* edition might wait several weeks before it cleared to go to print by which time any claim to currency had vaporized.”

The in-house nature of the publication gave it its name as did the sly reference to the then very popular John Gunther books (*Inside USA*, *Inside Europe* and *Inside Latin America*). “By using the ‘Inside’ title gimmick, the students and I did an end run. If our logic was Jesuitical, well, we had been well taught. Fr. Harrington was, I think, relieved to be rid of the responsibility.”

White kept expenses down by mimeographing the publication and producing it in an after-school journalism class. “Students had fun doing it,” White added. “They were delighted to have something current to read on Monday mornings.” The publication expanded into a four-page magazine in 1950 (“Rag to be Revamped” read the headline of the last one-pager) and continued to grow over the years.

Finally, *The Quill* appeared in 1951 as a literary magazine publishing short stories and poetry. It published until 1954, and then appeared again in 1992 as the school's official literary magazine.

Currently, students receive *Inside SI* in newspaper form, and *The Quill* and *Ignatian* yearbook, which appear annually. SI publishes the *Principal's Newsletter* online three times a year as well as the quarterly *Genesis*, the alumni magazine that started publication in November 1964. (A previous alumni publication, the *Ignatian Bulletin*, was published from 1956 until 1967 when *Genesis* took its place.)

Francis “Uncle Frank” Corwin, one of the best loved teachers in the school's history, began his 44-year teaching career in September 1947. A veteran of World War II, where he served as an MP, Corwin brought to his history classes stories and a demeanor that would frighten, amuse and entrance students (sometimes all at once) until his retirement in 1991. His students knew the truth of a joke told by Bob Sarlatte '68: “Frank Corwin doesn't teach history. He remembers it.”

When students recall Corwin, they think about his years serving as detention proctor. Students who received JUG went on a white-knuckle roller-coaster ride of master-sergeant-style badgering and mock abuse.

It went something like this: “Mistah! Sit up straight and let's see the whites of your knuckles! I could shine my shoes between your butt and the back of your chair!”

After leaving the army, Corwin went to Utah to teach. There the chain-smoking teacher found the strict Mormon standards a little too tough to take. Teachers weren't allowed to smoke in public, and twice he was caught and reported to his principal, who warned him that if he smoked in public a third time, he would be fired for moral turpitude.

“That's what they charge pimps and prostitutes with,” Frank said in a *Genesis III* interview.¹² “I told myself there were still 47 other states, so I gave notice.” He landed a job at SI and started teaching in the fall of 1947. On his first day, he walked into the



teachers' room and into a thick cloud of cigarette smoke. “In those days, everyone smoked at SI, including the Jesuits. The smoke was so thick, you could cut it with a knife.”

Then he listened to the conversations of the teachers and panicked. He asked himself, “What am I doing here? These teachers are brilliant. I told myself to keep my mouth shut so they wouldn't know how little I knew. From then on, I've always felt privileged to work at SI because we have an excellent faculty.”

Opposite page: Students enjoy an edition of the *Red & Blue*. Above: Frank Corwin in 1959. Known as “Uncle Frank” to students and colleagues, he loved to tell stories of his years working as an MP in North Africa during World War II.

Corwin began proctoring detention in the early 1950s when Fr. Tichenor asked him to take on the job. Corwin was used to East Coast private school boys “who were little gentlemen. At SI, the boys were live wires, always into mischief and pranks. I could see that they were ready to explode. So when I walked into the detention room, I had every kid freeze in an upright position in his seat with his butt touching the back of



his chair, hands folded on the lip of his desk, the whites of his knuckles showing, his shoulders back, feet planted together and staring at a mark I'd made on the blackboard. I'd tell them not to move their eyes from that mark for one hour.”

The veteran soldier had his fun with his charges. He'd heap verbal abuse onto his students, but it wouldn't take the students long to realize that behind the bellicose voice lay a heart of gold and a gentle spirit.

Corwin's punishments grew creative over the years. Leo LaRocca '53, one-time athletic director at SI, remembers Corwin ordering him to go to the ROTC armory, check out an unloaded rifle, and walk back and forth in front of the treasurer's office “guarding it” for one hour.

Another time, Corwin dealt with three boys who were repeat offenders. He used an old Army trick to punish them. He told the boys to dig a hole five feet wide, five feet long and five feet deep. When they were done, he had the boys turn around. He took out a small piece of paper from his pocket, threw it in the hole, and told the boys to fill the hole up again. When they were done, he asked them what was in the hole. One boy had seen Frank throw the paper into the hole. He got to leave. The other two had to dig the same hole and find the paper.

Principals throughout the years would take visitors to the detention room to show off Corwin's crisp discipline, and parents praised him for the tight control he maintained. “They'd tell me to give their sons the back of my hand if they failed to do their homework,” he noted.

Corwin, along with nearly all the faculty in the '40s and '50s, believed in the efficacy of corporal punishment. “If a student missed two homework assignments, he felt the back of my hand,” Corwin said. “He always had his homework the next day. And between Fr. Ray Pallas, SJ, and Fr. Leo Marine, SJ, every locker on the third floor of the old school was dented from bodies they

Above: The SI faculty honored Frank Corwin on his retirement by wearing dunce caps. Many of these men, when they were students at SI, served detention under Uncle Frank. Opposite page: George Moscone (fifth from left) at a 1950s alumni basketball game.

sent flying through the air.”

Corwin stopped rapping the boys in the early '60s. “Other teachers still practiced corporal punishment, but I was afraid I might injure someone. I substituted it with screaming and shouting.”

In class, Corwin peppered his lectures with stories of Cairo and the war. Those stories brought to life the textbook accounts that students read.

He also knew how to capture the imagination of a 15-year-old boy. While teaching a rigorous course of history, which he developed for the archdiocese (the infamous syllabus), he told stories of corpses three-days dead in the desert, of men dying from drinking too much liquor too quickly, and, of course, of Major Lake and his mistress, Sasha.

Corwin soon found that he was the subject of faculty stories. It had as much to do with the love the faculty felt for this grizzly-bear of a man as much as it had to do with the situations in which Frank found himself.

For instance, during one fire alarm drill at the Sunset District campus, Frank directed his students to leave the school and then saw that Fr. Gene Growney, SJ '60, had elected to stay behind because one of his students had a full-length leg cast and could neither walk downstairs nor take the elevator during the drill. Frank and Gene decided to have a smoke in the bathroom while waiting for the drill to end.

“We were talking and didn't hear anyone coming. The next thing we knew, we saw Br. Draper, the fire chief, the battalion chief and his assistant. Boy, were they annoyed. Gene and I were officially cited by the fire department. Two days later, during the faculty dinner, the faculty gave Gene and me fire hats.”

The faculty ribbed Frank about that for years. And they didn't let him forget about the time that he woke up, showered and dressed, said goodbye to his wife and left for school. He got to the Stanyan Street campus, found no one there and thought that the entire school was at church for a religious holiday. He raced to St. Ignatius Church and found no one there. He walked back to school and saw a maintenance man. “He asked me what I was doing in school on a Saturday. If I could have physically done so, I would have kicked myself in the butt. When I returned home, my wife was laughing so hard, I thought she'd fall down. I didn't speak to her for two days. And of course it got back to school. Nothing stays a secret.”

Frank, who eventually moved to Marin, car-pooled with several other teachers. One day they played a practical joke on Frank. They arranged with Fr. Bill Keenan, SJ '36, the school treasurer, to put a note in Frank's pay envelope indicating that because the school was short on cash, several teachers couldn't

be paid for several months.

In the car on the ride back to Marin, each of the teachers pulled out his paycheck and announced that more money had been withheld than they had expected. They watched as Frank took the bait. He reached into his coat pocket and pulled out his pay envelope. He opened it, took one look, and shouted, "Turn this car around!" They were driving on the Golden Gate Bridge at the time. Frank knew he couldn't face his wife without having been paid in full.

In 1987, SI named Frank Corwin as the recipient of the President's Award, the highest honor the school bestows upon a person who has not attended SI. That citation reads, in part, that "as the years passed, students and alumni came to realize Frank's goodness, innate charity and deep humility. It is there that the wizard whose bombast was only an instructional tool was seen to be the teacher *par excellence*, for he showed the scarecrow, the lion and the tin man that the treasure they had been seeking actually had always been deep within them and needed only to be recognized by the one who cared to be self-appropriated. And so the tin man finds his heart, the lion his courage and the scarecrow his brain, thanks to Frank's tutelage."

When he retired in May 1991, the faculty held a surprise going-away party for Frank and for two of his longtime colleagues who were also retiring — Joe Parker and Anny Medina — SI's first full-time female faculty member. Three judges, the Hon. Timothy Reardon '59, the Hon. William Mallen '54, the Hon. Robert Dossee '52, all former students of Corwin, came to honor this veteran teacher, as did J.B. Murphy, who had retired in 1989 after 50 years at SI. Members of the faculty and the judges all wore dunce caps as they sat in on Uncle Frank's last detention period.

At the party, Judge Mallen recalled his senior year history class with Corwin. "He had one of the greatest scams going. By the time I got to my senior year, I thought I was ready for a break. But Mr. Corwin, on the first day of class, announced that anyone who caught him in a mistake would receive an automatic A for the semester and an exemption on the semester exam.

"From that point on, I sat glued to my chair listening to his every word. Two-thirds through the year in one of his lectures, he referred to Abraham Lincoln who 'served as a colonel' during some battle. I raised my hand. 'Mr. Corwin,' I asked. 'Do you remember the promise you made at the beginning of the year?' He said he did. 'Abraham Lincoln was a captain, not a colonel during that battle.'

"Mr. Corwin looked in his text and announced, 'You're absolutely correct!' He took out his grade book, marked an A in it under my name, and announced that I was exempt from the exam. From that point on, I didn't hear another word of history in that class."

Fr. John Murphy, SJ '59, an extraordinary English teacher at SI at the time of Corwin's retirement, told the story of being in Uncle Frank's class during the 1956-57 paper drive. The winning class, he noted, won the title of the "Loyalty Class." "Mr. Corwin gave threats, appeals and humiliations as motivation to be that class. For instance, he assigned a long term paper that could be waived by meeting our individual quota. We were determined to be the Loyalty Class. To do this, we hired a truck and one of the parents drove. And from early in the morning until late

in the afternoon on a fall Saturday, the 30 of us canvassed the Richmond District. We went systematically from Arguello to the beach using Clement as our axis and fanning out and bringing the papers back to the truck by hand and with wagons. The truck got full. In fact, our one class had collected more newspapers than the rest of the school together.

"Well, such a great event could only be capped by an unauthorized, unexpected visit to Mr. Corwin's home. So late Saturday afternoon, sweaty and smudged, we rang the doorbell. When Mrs. Corwin saw us, she called to Frank who came out with some alarm on his face. We presented him with a truckful of paper. Realizing there was no danger to his person or family from us, he assumed his habitual role as omniscient, rotund professor and said, 'Gentlemen, in the history of my years at St. Ignatius, this is an historic event. All records have been shattered. You have done yourselves proud. I am sure the principal and administration will be stunned by such a performance. Thank you gentlemen. I will see you Monday morning.'"

In a *Genesis IV* interview, Frank insisted that his greatest honor was not the recognition he received from San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos a week before his retirement, when he received an honorary proclamation from the City of San Francisco, but the fact that he taught at SI. "I'm very trite," he said. "I've known I've been blessed to have the opportunity to teach at this kind of school. I've taught in public schools where no one seemed to care about anything. Here, there's plenty of care, concern, and most importantly, love."

George Moscone & Leo McCarthy

Two of SI's best known politicians graduated in the 1940s — George Moscone '47 and Leo McCarthy '48.

George Moscone's senior yearbook caption included the following: "A devotee to athletics and ROTC, he was mentioned on several All-City basketball selections, having played on various school teams since his freshman year. He won the first year elocution contest and was a three-year baseballer. The 'Bambino' will attend St. Mary's with Herman Wedemeyer."

Born to working-class parents November 24, 1929, Moscone



went on to SI where he excelled at basketball, earning all-city honors and an athletic scholarship to college. He played for Phil Woolpert, and, along with Cap Lavin, helped the team earn its second AAA championship. He was also a good speaker, as his victory in the Frosh Elocution Contest indicated.

After graduating from college and Hastings Law School, he married Gina Bodanza, his childhood sweetheart, and they had four children. (Two of those children, Chris Moscone '80 and Jonathan Moscone '82, were in class at SI the day their father died. His granddaughter, Zea Moscone, is a member of SI's class of 2008.)

He became involved in San Francisco politics through John and Phillip Burton and won elections for supervisor, state senator and San Francisco Mayor. A champion for civil rights and the interests of the poor and working class, Moscone was a popular mayor. On November 27, 1978, he and Supervisor Harvey Milk were gunned down by former Supervisor Dan White. That night, 40,000 people marched in a candlelight vigil to honor Moscone

and Milk. (More on this in Chapter XI.)

Leo McCarthy was born in Auckland, New Zealand, and immigrated with his parents to California when he was 3 years old. At SI he made the track team and competed in shot put. He later earned a Bachelor's degree in history from USF in 1955. He married Jacqueline Burke, and they have four children, two of whom attended SI—Adam '83 and Niall '85. (Leo's grandchildren Courtney Allen '97 and Kevin Allen '00 also attended SI.)

In 1964, he was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors (along with Moscone) and later served as California Assembly Speaker for six years in the 1970s followed by a 12-year stint as Lieutenant Governor. In his many years of public service, he is credited for his efforts in education, health and the environment. (He also made a point of driving to his San Francisco home every day from Sacramento to be with his family.) He is a longtime SI supporter who attends many of the school's events and was a featured speaker at a Downtown Business Lunch in the 1990s.

IX. SUCCESS & DISCONTENT (1950–1959)

Academics: The Separation of the Schools

Fr. Edward B. Rooney, SJ, the Jesuit Education Association director who inspected SI in 1938, made a return inspection in 1950. His report praised SI as “unquestionably one of the outstanding Jesuit high schools in the United States ... for many years now, it has been building up a fine reputation in the local community and it continues to merit and to enjoy this reputation.”¹ Rooney was pleased that the school was willing to dismiss students whose grades did not measure up, but criticized the tendency of students to choose secular colleges, such as UC Berkeley, over religious universities. He also found disturbing the shaky financial ground upon which the high school stood. He cited the “substantial deficits,” and pointed out that USF, which in past years had been supported by the high school, was not, in turn, SI's benefactor. (USF in the 1950s was enjoying tremendous success thanks to the GI Bill and veterans returning to their studies.)

Rooney recommended that the school adopt and follow annual budgets and raise tuition. He warned that if USF and SI were ever to separate, the high school would be in financial straits. The following summer, SI Treasurer Edward Zeman, SJ, informed parents that the school would raise tuition to \$135 per year.

The school also began taking seriously the notion of separation from USF, something that had been initially discussed at the turn of the century. As USF's and SI's missions became more specifically focused, this split seemed a natural thing. In fact, the two other province schools that had started as combination college-high schools — Loyola and Santa Clara — both had broken off their preparatory divisions years previous, Bellarmine in 1925 and Loyola High School in 1929. The reasons for those separations were (as Gerald McKeivitt, SJ, wrote about the split between Bellarmine and SCU) “as numerous as they were obvious.” In his history of SCU, McKeivitt noted that “as late as 1915 there were 350 colleges and universities in the United States that

still retained ‘prep’ schools, but such arrangements were becoming increasingly anachronistic.” After Santa Clara adopted the title of “university,” the school's faculty resented “the intolerable anomaly of a university frequented by boys in knickerbockers.” While that tension was lessened in San Francisco by the minor geographic separation between USF and SI, faculty and administrators at both schools saw the handwriting on the wall.²

As early as 1950, the SI and USF Jesuits were seriously looking at sites for the relocation of the high school. A memorandum dated November 13, 1950, noted two parcels: a 12-acre Laurel Hill site (now the Laurel Village Shopping Center), costing \$450,000, and the 2-acre Masonic Avenue car-barn property, costing \$75,000 on which the school considered building a gymnasium and playfield. This second site would allow the SI Jesuits to separate from the USF community “by the erection of a faculty building on the present High School site.”³

In 1955, the Jesuits of both schools, who were still living as one community in Welch Hall, took the first step toward canonical separation when they received a letter dated August 21, 1955, “to Jesuit superiors from Fr. Vincent McCormick, SJ, American Assistant to Fr. General John B. Janssens, in which he conveyed the latter's decision that the two communities should eventually be so separated.”⁴

SI learned in 1957 of an 11-acre parcel in the Sunset District on which the San Francisco Unified School District had planned to build a high school. When the district abandoned its plans, the Jesuits at SI expressed interest in the rolling sand dunes between 37th and 38th Avenues and Pacheco and Riviera Streets. USF President John F.X. Connolly, SJ, approached Mayor George Christopher for help securing the property for SI. On August 11, 1958, Mayor Christopher wrote to Joseph A. Moore, president of the SFUSD Board of Education, encouraging the sale of the “surplus land” to SI and adding that “to this moment, no use has been found for this site.” He also warned that San Francisco was in danger of losing SI to another city “unless we are able to coop-

erate with the University of San Francisco in securing a new location for this time honored school.” If that were to happen, he added, “the burden of taking care of its student body may fall on the shoulders of San Francisco taxpayers.”⁵

While SI would not purchase that land until 1964 (at a price of \$2 million), the stage had been set for the school’s move to its sixth site. In the meantime, USF and SI prepared for the eventual move by formally separating on July 1,

1959, as distinct corporations and Jesuit communities after receiving permission from the Father General, thus ending a 104-year relationship between high school and college. Fr. Patrick J. Carroll, SJ ’31, became president of St. Ignatius High School and rector of the 40-member SI Jesuit community. (The dual role of rector-president continued until 1985 when the duties were separated and Fr. Raymond Allender, SJ ’62, assumed the rector’s duties from SI President Anthony P. Sauer, S.J.) Fr. Carroll, who had taught at SI from 1938 to 1941, served as assistant to the provincial prior to this appointment.⁶

Not every Jesuit was happy to see the two schools part ways. Br. Daniel Peterson, SJ, librarian at SI between 1975 and 2000 and later province archivist, was a student at USF in 1959 during the separation. He recalls his teacher, Fr. Ray Feely, SJ, coming into the classroom, shaking his head and complaining. “They took our preparatory department away from us,” he told the class. “He was in a foul mood all day. He thought it was a terrible decision, but I suspect his was a minority opinion.”

3 Greats: Fr. Spohn, Warren White & Fr. Becker

Fr. Richard Spohn, SJ

Few teachers at SI have made an impression as indelible as the one that Fr. Richard Spohn, SJ ’31, made on the 5,000 students he taught between 1947 and 1979. An exacting teacher, he knew what he would be teaching on any given day during the year, and he had a cabinet filled with home-made demonstrations to make concrete the abstract notions of physics. He set off rockets, shot a miniature cannon and recreated famous experiments, inspiring many students to choose careers in science.

Bob Hunter ’48, who was a student for Spohn’s second year at SI, noted that “it was tough enough taking both Latin and Greek, so no one wanted to take physics. But he was a great, great teacher who not only knew his physics well, but could teach it well. After we found out how good he was, we filled each of



his classes.” Hunter also marveled at how Spohn “managed to acquire enough thermodynamic, mechanical and electric equipment to make physics real for us.”

Bing Quock ’72, head of the Morrison Planetarium, noted that “as far as his demonstrations were concerned, he was the equivalent of Mr. Wizard. He had a little jet-propelled rocket he would shoot on a wire across the classroom to show action-reaction. He could actually show

you scientific principles in operation so you could see physical phenomena — the laws of gravity and convection, for instance. You didn’t have to learn about them through a book only. You could see them right before your eyes.”

Quock remembered Fr. Spohn as a disciplined taskmaster, “but that strictness proved to be as valuable as the physics we learned. He even made sure we put our lab chairs back under the table a certain way. That helped me to be a critical thinker, to approach my work on a meticulous level almost to the point of fussiness. But that’s necessary in science.”

Laurence Yep ’66 wrote about Fr. Spohn in his memoir *The Lost Garden*. “I took physics from a priest who over the years had refined his science demonstrations down to the smallest detail; and they were presented with all the flair and precision of a Broadway show. His example of air pressure was especially memorable because he would place a marshmallow into a bell jar. Slowly he would pump out the air, and the marshmallow, with less and less air pressing at its sides to help it hold its shape, would slowly begin to swell and expand. By the time most of the air had been taken out from the bell jar, the marshmallow looked as large as a rat. Then he would let in some air; and even that slight amount of air pressure was enough to make the marshmallow collapse into a gooey mess.... However like the good showman he was, he always saved the best for the climax, ending the final class with a bang. During the last day of instruction, he would set off a miniature replica of the atom bomb. There would be a bang and a flash of light and then a pillar of white dust would shoot up toward the ceiling where it spread out into the familiar mushroom shape.”

Fr. Spohn’s reputation for punctuality made him a legendary figure among this students and colleagues. Fr. Raymond Allender, SJ ’62, recalled that “on the last day of school in the 1970s,

Above: Fr. Richard Spohn, SJ, in 1955. He built all of his demonstration materials himself and was famous for the meticulous planning of his lectures.

Warren R. White '39

for instance, the dean of men would call Dick's classroom a few seconds before the final bell rang, just as he was finishing the last sentence of his last lecture. He'd ask, "Dick, have you completed your material?" and Dick would answer, "Yes, Brother, you may now ring the bell." He would then shut his notebook and proclaim, "And gentlemen, that is physics." In 1976, his venerable schedule was thrown off for the first time when Fr. McCurdy made a surprise announcement declaring that the last day of class would be a holiday.

Tom Kennedy '63 recalled that Fr. Spohn "knew that he was going to be absent for a particular class, so he put that day's lecture on a tape recorder so the class would not miss a thing. The class was intently listening and taking notes, and about 20 minutes into this taped lecture, Fr. Spohn's voice boomed out, "Shut up, Brandi!" As you might have guessed, Tom Brandi was talking at this exact moment. Needless to say, both he and the class remained quiet for the rest of the period."

"Dick gave such credibility to the science department and the profession of teaching because he was such a thorough professional," added Fr. Allender. "No doubt about it. He was a dominating figure. He was Jesuit education."

Fr. Spohn made school history by having his class go coed nearly 20 years before the rest of the school. When SI moved to its Sunset District campus, it offered morning physics classes to girls from the city's Catholic high schools. "He loved teaching the girls," said Fr. Allender. "They brought out his gentle side. To him, they were his girls." Fr. Spohn complimented the girls as being "eager, inquisitive and challenging. The worst thing you could do would be to underestimate them."

He retired in 1979 when his diabetes worsened, but he continued to live at SI and helped out in classes while he trained to become a spiritual director. "That was typical of him to start a whole new field once he retired," said Fr. Allender. "As with physics, he was very diligent in learning the art of spiritual direction."

Eventually, he moved to the Jesuit retirement center in Los Gatos, though he kept in touch with former students and sent newspaper clippings to teachers at SI offering ideas for their classes. He died in January 1989, and his memorial Mass was celebrated in Orradre Chapel on the SI campus, presided over by his nephew William Spohn '62.

Fr. Spohn wasn't the only great teacher at SI. Another favorite of many students was Warren White, who taught at the Stanyan Street campus between 1948 and 1955. He was also the originator and first moderator of *Inside SI* and the director of numerous plays. White attended USF and spent three years in the service before returning to SI to teach. "Suddenly, my former teachers were colleagues, including Mr. McNamara, Red Vaccaro, Barney Wehner, Sgt. Storti, Edward Dermot Doyle, Fr. Joe King, SJ, Fr. Alex Cody, SJ, Fr. William O'Neil, SJ, Fr. Ray Buckley, SJ, and President Dunne. I recall that the faculty

room was a smoke-filled den containing the faculty mailboxes, some lounge chairs and a common table where one could work on papers. Other than the physics and chemistry rooms, there were no dedicated rooms and the faculty had no offices. The faculty room also served as a lunchroom if you brown-bagged it, but there was a provision of coffee. In the cafeteria, we sat in an area screened off from the students, but it was not very attractive. The Jesuits repaired to their rectory on the Hill-



top, and we laymen made do.

"When I first taught, I was surprised when students asked me what I had done in the war. I wondered how they knew I was a veteran. Then I realized I was wearing a lapel pin of an eagle that all veterans received and which we called a 'ruptured duck.'"

"Everyone in the English department used the same anthology — *Literature and Life* — published nationally with separate editions for public and parochial schools. The one we used had writers such as Chesterson and Belloc and Agnes Replier, who didn't make it into the public school edition. One advantage to this was that almost every high school senior in the U.S. would be familiar with at least four plays by Shakespeare, some of the sonnets, Gray's 'Elegy in a Churchyard,' Tennyson's 'Ulysses,' and T.S. Eliot's 'The Hollow Men,' for example. Student choice was honored in the assignment of book reports — at least one a semester. Students could select what they wished, subject to approval. Junior year was devoted to American literature, senior to British."

With the sudden death of James Gill in 1949 (who had directed the school's plays for 20 years), White took over the director's job. He had acted in USF's College Players under Gill's direction. "Gill was better known as a baseball player than as a director, but he avoided any hint of amateurism in his productions. What I knew was what I had learned from him, and it worked for me by and large.

Above: Warren White asked his journalism students to analyze the way different newspapers covered the same story. Opposite page: Fr. John Becker, SJ, at a 1965 Christmas dance. Photo by Kevin Tobin '66.

“The annual play was a fund-raiser for the gymnasium and had gone from using the Little Theatre at USF to performing at the Marines Memorial Theatre on Sutter Street. It was my responsibility to select the play and cast, organize a stage crew, build the sets, get the furnishings and props, schedule rehearsals and supervise the move to Marines and back to Stanyan Street. A stipend of \$500 was added to my annual pay.

“Shortly after I had replaced Gill, Fr. Joe King came to SI with his enthusiasm for glee clubs and music of all kinds. He started organizing talent shows, and they evolved into musical productions in which I began to take a part. One was called *Win Winsocki*. MGM had produced a “B” list musical set in a small Midwest college whose survival rested with the success of its football team. We ignored the book and the title of the film, but used the fight song, which went, ‘You can win Winsocki if you only try,’ and other stereotypical sentiments. It was a wonderful song, and it served as the basis for a pastiche of songs, dances, sketches, whatever Fr. King, the students or I could devise. The following year we topped it with a work we called *Souther Pacific*, which combined bits of Rogers and Hart with *The Caine Mutiny*, *Mr. Roberts*, and other ideas from Fr. King, the students or myself. These performances were at USF’s Little Theatre, and it didn’t occur to any of us that we should have paid royalties. I trust a statute of limitations applies.

“One year, Bing Crosby wanted to use the Marines Memorial for a broadcast, but we had the lease for the theatre. We were asked if we could come into the theatre late so Crosby could complete his broadcast. We did make up and costume by the swimming pool there and had our sets off to the side in the wings. Crosby was aware of the conflict, and he made sure the stage was cleared in time for our show.

“The Marines Memorial productions included *Yellow Jack*, a Pulitzer-winning play about the conquering of yellow fever in Cuba as a prelude to building the Panama Canal. We did comedies such as *Three Men on a Horse*, *Here Comes Mr. Jordan*, and *The Gentleman from Athens*. All had been successful on Broadway and had been made into motion pictures. All the female roles had to be changed into male roles. My last shows at Marines, and I think the last time SI used the hall, was for *Billy Budd*, a man-of-war saga, which had no female parts and needed no altering.

“A Jesuit seminary in the Midwest had established a cottage industry rewriting standard plays to change female roles to male ones. There were many boys’ schools and colleges, and thus a demand for scripts with all-male roles existed. The rationale, at least at SI, was that as a school activity, a school play should be open to as many students as possible. Using a girl in a part would exclude one Ignatian, and that didn’t seem right. Nor did the thought of female impersonation ever suggest itself. The policy, at least in my years at SI, was never a stratagem for separating the sexes. We had school dances after all, and girls were encour-

aged to swell the stands at sporting events. In the next few years, Mr. Dick McCurdy, SJ (later principal at SI), having succeeded me, chose to use the more convenient stage of the Presentation Theatre on Turk Street.”

Fr. John Becker

In 1958, a young Jesuit came to SI and stayed for 20 years. Fr. John Becker, SJ, was a remarkable English teacher and *Inside SI* moderator known for his propensity for punning, his highly structured curriculum that became the department standard and his manner of inspiring students. Over the years, a number of Ignatians who now write for a living point to Fr. Becker as the man who convinced them they had talent worth pursuing. *Dragonwings* author Laurence Yep ’66, *Frasier* creator Peter Casey ’68 and *Chronicle* political reporter John Wildermuth ’69 are just three who praise Becker for giving them their start.

Fr. Becker was born in Oak Park, Illinois, and attended St. Philip’s in Chicago and St. Monica’s High School in Santa Monica before entering the Society on July 1, 1943. He earned a Master’s degree in English at Loyola University and has taught high school since 1950, at Belarmine, SI (from 1958 to 1978) and Brophy. While at SI he moderated *Inside SI* (and taught students to print four-color magazines using a press in the basement of the school), taught English and religious studies and took students to Europe each summer, buying a Volkswagon van in Germany and touring for six weeks with 10 or so students who slept on the floors of Catholic school gymnasiums. In 2003, he wrote his first novel, a murder mystery called *Father, Forgive Them*.



Laurence Yep & Peter Casey on Fr. Becker

Laurence Yep ’66, the author of *Dragonwings* and dozens of other books, wrote about Fr. Becker in his autobiography, *The Lost Garden*. Here is an excerpt from his book:

“In my senior year, we had Father Becker who taught us English by having us imitate the various writers and various forms. We had to write poems in the complicated rhyme scheme of the sestina; and we had to write scenes imitating Shakespeare. Our writing would never make anyone forget William or the other greats of English literature; but we learned the nuts and bolts of a style. To this day, I have to be careful what I read because I tend to imitate that writing.

“Early in the semester, Father took some of us aside and said that if we wanted to get an ‘A’ in his course, we would have to get something accepted by a national magazine. All of us were intimidated by the prospect; but in those days you

didn't argue with a Jesuit priest — and you still don't. All of us tried. None of us got anything accepted; and he later retracted the threat and graded us by the same standards he used for the rest of the class. However, I got bitten by the bug and kept on trying."

Peter Casey '68, a writer for *Cheers* and *Wings* and the

creator of *Frasier* (the most honored sitcom in TV history), was also a student in Fr. Becker's class. "He was tough," Casey said in an interview that appeared in the Spring '95 *Genesis III*. "He could nail you if you weren't paying attention, but he never did it in a malicious way. I respected his opinion tremendously. When he told me that I could write, it made an impression on me. Heading into college, I wasn't exactly sure what direction I wanted to go. That praise helped steer me to major in journalism at a junior college and in broadcasting when I transferred to San Francisco State University."

On April 20, 1997, SI dedicated a courtyard next to the campus ministry center in honor of Fr. Becker. Casey donated funds for the project, which, with its fountain and benches, is a place that invites students to gather in small groups and discuss a novels and poetry.

Centennial Celebration & the Alumni Association

To mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of St. Ignatius College, USF and St. Ignatius High School held a centennial week in October 1955. SI celebrated a solemn Mass on October 13 sung at St. Ignatius Church by Fr. William Tobin, SJ, with a sermon delivered by Fr. Charles Casassa, SJ '28, then president of Loyola University in Los Angeles. SI students also took part in USF's celebrations, which included an October 14 University Memorial Mass for deceased students and an October 16 Mass celebrated by Archbishop John J. Mitty, who was assisted by a former SI religion teacher, the Right Rev. Msgr. Harold Collins.

In the 1955 yearbook, SI Principal Robert Leonard, SJ, asked Ignatians to commemorate the centennial by referring to the key image of the 1950s — the Atom. "This is an Atomic Age: of fusion and fission; of unbounded energies harnessed and



Above: Fr. Thomas Reed, SJ, speaks with members of the Block Club. Opposite page: George Devine '59 leads cheers at a 1956 football game.

exploded; of contracting and scattering; of elements merged and particles ejected. An analogy may be drawn between the atomic process and your lives. Remember, however, it is a resemblance, not a parallel. During your days at St. Ignatius there was a building up of, a search for unity — a fusion — with God, with truth, with one another; in a

word, the fusion of faith, hope and charity. Now is the zero hour of fission. You are divided and hurled forth, not to dissipate your substance nor to lose your character in the world, as atomic particles are hurled forth never to return. For you, the bond of these earlier years will never be broken. The field of your operation will simply be ever widened as a chain reaction...."⁷

The modern Alumni Association started in 1956 with the celebration of the school's centenary, and the school gathered 58 graduates to put together a roster for a general alumni reunion to be held June 2, 1956. At that event, alumni gathered by year in classrooms. "These rooms became pretty lively places, and some men who had not seen their classmates for quite a few years were having a field day," reported the *Ignatian Bulletin*, the precursor to the *Genesis* alumni magazine. When the crowd came together for dinner, student yell leaders led them in Wildcat yells "and even gave the school fight song a whirl. Then former yell leaders took over under the leadership of Danny Galvin '42. Dan still [had] the touch, and the alumni responded long and loud." Then the first Alumni Association president — Tom King '22 — was named, along with his officers Darrell Daly '15, Superior Judge Edward J. Molkenbuhr '18, Charles Creighton '30, Richard B. Doyle '21 and Dan O'Hara '35.⁸

Fr. Robert Leonard, SJ & Fr. Thomas Reed, SJ

In the June 6, 1957, *Inside SI*, editor Dan Flynn '57 paid tribute to outgoing principal, Fr. Robert Leonard, SJ, who had come to SI in 1951 as its vice principal and dean of discipline and who had served as principal starting in 1954. Flynn wrote that students came to respect Fr. Leonard. "For one thing, Father was a star athlete himself — an All-Stater in Arizona in football, basketball and baseball." When Leonard took over as principal, it was "a popular choice," wrote Flynn. "In the semesters that followed, strange things began to happen. Students were trusted with more and more privileges. SI had a principal who was with and for the students every inch of the way. The main secret of Fr.

Leonard's success lay in the fact that he trusted the students. He knew the good, positive method of directing them. Seldom was he heard criticizing the student body on the PA system. Instead of criticism, he boomed out the strong encouraging words which gave the students the confidence they needed."

His replacement would be Fr. Thomas Reed, SJ '34, a native San Franciscan and an SI grad. Born in 1917, Fr. Reed entered the Society after graduating from high school and taught at SI between 1942 and 1944. He studied education at St. Louis University, Stanford and USF where he received a doctoral degree in education counseling and psychology in 1985. He served as principal of SI between 1957 and 1964 before leaving for USF to serve as acting dean of education. In one of his first acts as principal, he created a split lunch period, given the large enrollment of 1957, with seniors and sophomores eating before juniors and freshmen. He also added fluorescent lights to the first floor corridor.

Fr. Reed was known as a forthright man who always spoke his mind, but "his frankness and off-the-cuff manner could be controversial," according to his obituary published in the *National Jesuit News*. He made an unsuccessful bid in 1972 for a seat on the San Francisco Board of Education, but was appointed to the board by Mayor Joseph Alioto to fill a vacancy and served until 1977.

Athletics: Basketball in the New Gym

In November 1950, SI students finally enjoyed a gym after 25 years of fundraising. Construction began in March 1950, with money coming from all sources, including a "till that bulged with greenbacks from the play" and the generous donations of parents and local businesses. The money was not enough to pay the entire cost of construction, and the school still faced a \$30,000 debt in 1951. By 1955, however, it cleared the books on that debt.⁹

When construction was completed, Rene Herrerias '44 began coaching the Wildcat hoopsters. After graduating from SI, Herrerias played for USF, where, at 5-feet, 9-inches, "his flashy and sound playing thrilled the crowd at Madison Square Garden when his team won the NIT in 1948." Herrerias returned to coach at SI, succeeding Phil Woolpert, who had left to coach at USF.¹⁰

In all, Herrerias led the Wildcats to four AAA championships (1951 and 1954–56) and two Tournament of Champions victories in 1954 and 1955). He began his auspicious career in the fall of 1950 by leading the 120s to an undefeated record. (The 110s and 120s played in the fall in those days.) The 120s were captained by Mic Kelly '52 and featured two Prep Hall of Famers, Bernie Simpson '54 and Ray Paxton '54, as well as Steve Moriarty '53 and Jim Stephens '53. The 130s also won their division, captained by Bill Parker '52 and



featuring Dan Powers '52, Nils Fernquist '52, Bob Braghetta '53 and Speed DeConti '52.

The varsity made it a trifecta by also winning the AAA. Herrerias captured his first varsity league victory in March 1951 in a 40–37 win against Commerce (which starred Casey Jones) with the starting five of George Hayes, Bob Wiebusch, Stan Buchanan, Bill Bush and Rudy Zannini, all five of whom matriculated to USF, three on athletic scholarships. (Other stars of that era include Ray Healy and Bill Mallen.)

The shortest among those five was Zannini, who, at 5-feet, 6-inches, averaged 15 points each game, the third highest in the league. He was nicknamed "The Mouse" and "The Watch Guard" by his teammates, but continued to play at USF side-by-side with teammate Bill Russell and later earned entry into the San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame.

The star of the 1954 and 1955 Tournament of Champion teams was Fred LaCour '56, one of the most gifted men to play basketball for SI. (He later played with the St. Louis Hawks from 1960–62 and the Warriors the following year.) In 1954, he tied an AAA scoring record in his junior year at SI against Galileo, scoring 29 points. He shot for 22 points against Salinas in the first round of the Tournament of Champions on March 10, 1955, and later shared honors with Team Captain Dan Casey '55, both named as all-tournament players.

A commemorative issue of *Inside SI* noted that for the finale, "the Coach of the Year, Mr. Rene Herrerias, and the Team of the Year, the St. Ignatius Wildcats, [rode] high on the shoulders of the SI students as they triumphantly paraded and cheered through the scene of their glorious victory — champions all!"

In his senior year, LaCour earned All-American honors and led his team to a 7–1 league finish and the championship. His team won the first two games at the Tournament of Champions, but LaCour suffered a broken finger and did not play against El Cerrito, which won 26–20.

Baseball

After Frank McGloin retired from coaching, SI baseball teams were led by John Golden (who also coached football) and Grove Mohr, who, in 1950, led SI to a 7–2 season. In 1954, Mohr captured the AAA championship with stars such as Ken Dito '54 (who later worked as a broadcaster for KNBR), Ray Paxton '54, Roger Ferrari '55 and Jack Scramaglia '55. The last three later became members of the San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame.

Paxton also played basketball at SI, but his star was brightest on the diamond, and in his junior year he earned a pitching spot on the all-league second team for the AAA after pitching a no-hitter against Lincoln. At one point, he had 21 straight scoreless innings.

In his senior year, he helped SI take both the AAA basketball league crown and the Tournament of Champions. Paxton was named

to the All-AAA, All-TOC, All-Metro and All-NorCal teams. Later, pitching for the Wildcats under coach Grove Mohr, Paxton took SI to its first AAA baseball title in 24 years and earned a spot on the all-league first team and on the *Examiner* All-Star team. Also, he was named MVP of the *Chronicle*/Lions Club East–West All-Star game after pitching all nine innings and collecting four hits while leading his team to a 15–4 victory. That victory won him a trip to the World Series in New York where he saw Willie Mays make his famous catch against Cleveland at the Polo Grounds.

Paxton was named both San Francisco and NorCal Athlete of the Year in 1954 before his freshman year at SCU. He later spent a year playing for a Red Sox farm team in Las Vegas but found that baseball had lost its allure.

Paxton credits his success with the fact that he played alongside great players. “Those were special times,” Paxton recalls. “The 1950s were so peaceful. Everyone seemed to get along so well, and I had many great friends.”

Roger Ferrari, who played his senior year for Jim Keating, was twice selected to play in the San Francisco East–West All-Star game and batted .425 in his senior year, earning All-City honors. He went on to earn MVP status for the East/West game where he hit three for five. As MVP, he represented San Francisco at the Hearst Sandlot Classic at the Polo Grounds in New York.

After graduating from SI, Ferrari attended City College where he made the All-Conference and All-Northern California teams for two seasons. “I still remember the first time I walked onto the field at Seal Stadium,” recalls Ferrari. “It was during the CYO championship game in 1951 in my eighth grade year at Sts. Peter and Paul. I thought I had made the big time. That was the year Mickey Rocco was the star first baseman, and I always watched him, trying to imitate his moves. He wore number 4, so that was always the number on my jersey and my lucky number.”



Jack Scramaglia played varsity baseball in each of his four years and made the all-city team in both his junior and seniors years. As a senior he hit .464 and led the league in hits. That year, the *Examiner* selected him to play on its all-star team that traveled to New York. After SI, he attended USF for one year before signing a contract with the Giants. He played three seasons in the minor leagues before leaving to become a teacher and coach at Roosevelt Junior High School in San Francisco. In 1997, the San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame inducted him into its ranks.

In 1955, Jim Keating took over as baseball coach. He won his first league championship in 1958 with stars such as Don Leonardini, Ron Cook, Ken Dekker and all-Northern Californian John Giovanola. He recaptured that crown the following year despite predictions in the city papers that SI would never beat SH. Thanks to Chuck Rapp’s pitching and Ron Calcagno’s hitting, SI won 4–3. (Read more on Jim Keating in the next chapter.)

Golf & Bob Callan '57

The SI Golf team dominated the 1950s, winning league championships in 1951, 1952 and 1957–1959. Bob Callan '57 helped SI in his senior year to take the league crown and also captured the San Francisco City Junior title. While a student at SCU, he led its golf team to three consecutive league titles. He went on to win several city and county titles during his college career and then received a bachelor's degree in business from SCU and a law degree from USF.

Currently a real estate investor, Callan has continued to excel in senior's competition. Consistently ranked as one of the top players in the state, he has been selected to represent the Northern California Golf Association in team competition on 13 occasions. In 2003 he became the first player to win the San Francisco City Senior, Alameda Commuter, San Francisco County Senior and Oakland City Senior championships in the same year. He also won the prestigious Western Seniors title in Guadalajara, Mexico. Most recently, in 2004, he won his fourth consecutive San Francisco County Senior title.

Soccer & Cross Country

Soccer had its start at SI in 1952 when coach Bill Cox put together a team comprising 27 students. The following year, moderator James Straukamp (a Jesuit scholastic, who later became an Anglican priest) came to assist Cox. The 1953 *Ignatian* reported that the all-city captain Bob Braghetta '53 and Class of '52 seniors Barney Vannucci, Steve Sullivan, Jack Murray, Terry Curran, Bob Del Moral and Don Kelleher led the team to a victory against Lowell and a tie with Washington. Aside from Braghetta, standout juniors included Jim Flanagan and Mike Balibrera. The team earned its first playoff berth in 1959 after a 4–3 season, coached by USF

veteran Eric Fink.

The first mention of an SI cross country team occurs in the 1955 yearbook with a photograph of the first 21 runners. The following year, *Inside SI* praised the efforts of students Walt Van Zant, Steve Barrett, Jim Leary, Mike Deasy and George De Cat and praised the new cross country course in Golden Gate Park that started at Broom Point and went “through Lindley Meadow, around the police stables, around the middle lake, and then back down the south side of the Polo Fields, through another meadow and finally to the finish line just west of Lloyd Lake,” covering “1.9 miles of rough terrain.”¹¹

Football

One of the stars of the day was Gil Dowd '57 who helped lead SI to the AAA football championship in 1956. Dowd played on the frosh and JV teams and watched as the varsity struggled against strong teams from the AAA. By the time Dowd was a senior, it had been 11 years since SI had captured the league crown.

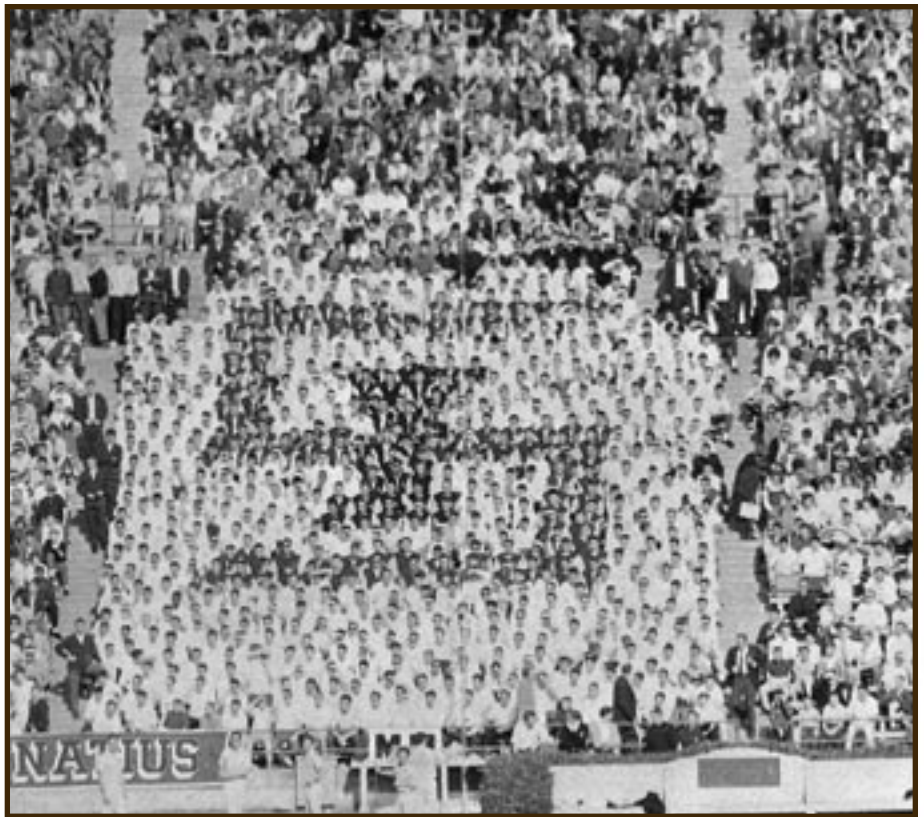
Something happened in 1956 to change SI's luck. Varsity Coach Sarge MacKenzie left to teach at USF and Pat Malley '49, whose father had coached at SI, took his place. Malley, who had been a star athlete both at SI and SCU, suffered an injury in his senior year at Santa Clara and, after serving in the Army, returned to SI to teach and coach. He brought along Gene Lynch '49, his teammate from SCU.

Early injuries contributed to losses against Poly and Washington, but the Wildcats went undefeated after that and took the city championship by beating Poly and then Balboa for the Turkey Bowl game before a crowd of 30,000. “Coach Malley's squad scored an early touchdown and had to rely on the defense the rest of the way. With three minutes to go in the game, Balboa had the ball first and goal. With their backs to the wall, SI's defense tightened up and the Bucs were unable to cross the goal line. SI had won its second championship, as the scoreboard read SI 7, Balboa 6.”¹²

Dowd, who entered the Prep Hall of Fame in 2003, credited the entire team with the success. “My classmates Ed Rothman and Bob Isola and I each took turns excelling in the backfield. We each did our share of running.” Dowd eventually earned All-City honors and was named Player of the Year by two of the city papers. He also earned All Northern California Second Team and All Metro Team honors and was named East Bay–West Bay All Star Game MVP.

Extracurriculars: The Senior Retreat

For the most part, the issues of the separation of the schools or of the Korean War did not impact the students, who continued to focus on the day-to-day routine of classes, their extracurricular activities, their spiritual growth and



their social lives. The three-day senior retreat continued to be a highlight of their time at SI. In 1950, the yearbook reported on this hallmark of Jesuit education:

“Dear Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve Thee as Thou deservest, to give and not to count the cost, to labor and not to seek for rest; to toil and not to seek reward, save that of knowing that I do Thy will.

“Long will thoughtful Ignatians remember this short but powerful prayer, the traditional keynote of the annual three-day Senior Retreat at El Retiro.

“They will remember, too, the new but uplifting experience that was theirs during those few days, when far away from the turmoil and nervousness of city life, they turned their minds and hearts to God.

“Some among them, such as Moore, Sheehan, Fazzio and Enright, will remember special duties that helped keep the retreatants in that atmosphere so necessary for a good retreat. All will remember the strict silence, the soul-searching meditations and the impressive Stations of the Cross.

“They will remember especially the spirit of the retreat, which perhaps remained with them after their departure from El Retiro; how it rendered them quiet and thoughtful, anxious to put their retreat resolutions into faithful practice, hopeful some day to return to El Retiro for another ‘spiritual checkup.’”¹³

The St. Ignatius Church *Monthly Calendar* ran a few student reflections on this retreat, written by members of the class of 1950. Here are a few excerpts:

Opposite page: The 1957 varsity baseball team with, from left, assistant coach Bob Welch, SJ, Br. Lenny Sullivan, SJ, and coach Jim Keating. Above: Students formed an SI block in the cheering section for football games.



“I went to El Retiro to get out of school and to have a good time, but after a few hours I changed my mind. I think the main reason for the change was the total lack of distraction. My thoughts there were more serious than at any other time of my life. I changed my mind, too, as to what made up the important things of life, for the things that seemed so important a few days before now seem to be trifles. I made resolutions; I pray to God that He will give me the strength to keep them.”

“I have made many retreats before, but none impressed me so greatly. I think the reason for this is the wonderful atmosphere of the place. I enjoyed the whole retreat, but I especially enjoyed making the out-door Stations of the Cross and saying the rosary while walking through the lovely gardens and visiting the outdoor shrines.”

“When I first came to El Retiro, I must admit I was prepared for a rather boring time. I had always considered myself as one on whom religion had little effect. I had never thought much about God, religion or life after death. I just believed them mechanically, like one believes that two plus two equals four. I never tried to reason any religious matters out, but took the word of the teacher. But as I look back on it now, I didn’t really believe my religion, and because I attended a public school for quite some time, I was even at times prone to disbelieve. However, at El Retiro, I had a chance that was never offered me before to *think* these problems out, and today I am convinced that the Catholic Church is the right church, that God exists, and many other matters of Faith on which I was weak.... What at El Retiro helped me clear up my mind? I believe it was the atmosphere. As a mountaineer, I have visited places in the huge canyons of the Sierra

where probably no one has ever trod, and in these places with a few chosen friends I did most of my thinking.... At El Retiro I believe the atmosphere of the mountains was provided; the guidance of the Church in important matters was added.”¹⁴

Both the Sanctuary Society (which provided the altar servers for the many Masses the priests said) and the Sodalities continued to provide avenues for the boys of SI to serve the Church and grow in faith during the school year. The Junior and Senior Sodalities were much like SI’s modern Service Club and CLCs. “Whether it was waiting on tables for the Fathers’ Club, washing dishes at the Old Folks Home, or enjoying the convention dances of the Bay Area Catholic High Schools, [members of] the Sodality worked together,” strove for “personal sanctification and sanctification of one’s neighbor,” and held daily noon rosaries during October and May.¹⁵

This faith life of students in the 1950s was the pre-Vatican II Catholicism of the *Baltimore Catechism*. Spiritual life for the boys would continue much this way until the late 1960s and early 1970s when the

effects of Vatican II began to influence the way the Jesuits shared their own rich spiritual traditions with their students.

Inside SI & The Ignatian Comes of Age

To celebrate the centennial year of the school, *Inside SI* grew from a small 4-page publication into a slick 16-page magazine. Its moderator, Robert Piser, SJ, who later changed his name to Kaiser when he moved to Rome in 1962 — I got tired of everyone calling me Pee-Sair — instigated the change when Fr. Leonard assigned him as moderator of both the literary magazine and the school newspaper. He asked if he could combine budgets and produce one publication, and permission was granted.

Kaiser was a devotee of *Time* and had even written his Master’s thesis about the ethics of *Time*-style journalism. “*Inside SI* had a strong resemblance to *Time*,” he noted in a 2003 interview. “Writing *Time*-style taught the kids to write colorfully and concretely, and the format helped us organize what we thought was important about SI and its culture.”

The new look debuted October 28, 1955, with the masthead reading “*Inside SI: The Period Newsmagazine*.” Editor James O’Brien ’56 offered this by way of introduction: “This year we are trying to make our writing so interesting and persuasive that when the fellow who hates football reads *our* article about the sport, and through it feels the exhilarating excitement of the game, he won’t be able to see enough football.”

The following year, Kaiser and his editors changed the layout to emulate *Sports Illustrated* “because we realized *Time* wasn’t the right model. We were so much of a jock school then, and we featured Gil Dowd ’57, a star football player, on the cover in a full-page, full-bleed duotone photo. The kids just loved it. We delivered it during

class time, and teachers suspended class so that students could read about themselves.”

Dan Flynn '57 served as editor in his senior year, and the magazine won national renown in 1957 with an All-American Award from the University of Minnesota. Roy Camozzi also won a \$100 scholarship at a Northern California Student Press Conference put on by UC Berkeley for a feature story he wrote. The magazine went on to win first place for its cover photo of Fr. Leonard from the Catholic High School Press Association, which also named the magazine a “Publication of Distinction” among high school and college publications on the Pacific Coast. Future magazines would earn SI first-place rankings from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Convention.¹⁶

The big award in 1957 went to the school yearbook, *The Ignatian*, which took first place in the nation from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. The yearbook featured the first place football and golf teams and a full-color cover, a first for that publication.

The Ignatians over the next few years continued to excel and, at times, offered new ways of showcasing the student body. The 1958 edition published “Some Basic Statistics on the SI Senior,” which noted the following:

- There are 202 seniors at St. Ignatius.
- The average senior is 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighs 158 pounds, has dark brown hair, brown eyes, and is 17 years old.
- 51.2 percent of the seniors participated in the SI sports program this past year.
- The percentage of seniors working after school has dwindled during the past 10 years; now it is 10.8 percent.
- The SI senior estimates that he spends on average of 1.5 hours studying each night; time spent in slumber, 7.6 hours.
- Though studies seemed to be more difficult this year, the senior class maintained an average of 84.3 percent in all subjects during the fall semester.
- Seniors seem to be more social now, with 16.3 percent going steady.
- 91.8 percent of SI seniors plan to attend college next year. More than half of these, 58.2 percent, will attend Catholic colleges.

Gordon Getty '51 & Sir Paul Getty

No one knew it at the time, but two brothers in the Class of 1951 belonged to one of the richest families in the country. Both Gordon Getty II and John Paul Getty, Jr., however, didn't grow up wealthy. Their mother, Ann, had divorced J. Paul Getty, and, according to Gordon's good friend and classmate Judge William Newsom '51, “they knew they had a rich, even very rich father, but as he had almost no influence upon their lives, one didn't hear much about him.... Neither Paul nor Gordon seemed particularly concerned



about money or the lack of it — nor did they seem to dwell on expectations.” Music became a greater part of Gordon's life, and he collected operatic records. The yearbook noted that Gordon came to SI from San Rafael Military Academy where he spent time as a debater. “However, he found time to take an active part in the Fathers' Club Talent Show. As yet he is undecided as to college or profession.” His brother went from a wild childhood to a “serious conversion thanks to the Jesuits of St. Ignatius” though he never graduated from the school.¹⁷

On February 24, 1958, *Time* ran a cover story on J. Paul Getty, ranking him as one of the world's richest men, and Gordon was thrust into the spotlight. He eventually became a noted composer, writing the opera *PlumpJack* based on the character of Falstaff, a 32-song cycle of Emily Dickinson's poems entitled *The White Election* and a play based on Poe's “The Fall of the House of Usher. He has shown great generosity with his many gifts to SI and the art community over the years, and has served the school as a member of the Board of Regents since the 1980s.

Gordon's brother, “Sir Paul,” as he was known in England, was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1986 for his charitable work. He was proud of that title because he loved the rich traditions of England, a love he noted that grew from his days as a student in America “where I was captured by the romance of English history and Shakespeare,” according to a 1998 interview with the *Sunday Telegraph*. He died at 70 in 2003.

Peter Raven '53

When *Time* named Peter Raven '53 a Hero of the Planet in April 1999, the editors there had good cause. Few other men have done as much as Raven to stop the destruction of rain forests and slow the loss of biodiversity, and hardly anyone is as articulate or as passionate as he is regarding our need to save our planet. Raven's passion and professionalism have won him a litany of awards, honors and posts. Among them:

- Raven was Home Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences and a member of President Clinton's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology.
- He is one of 80 members of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences that advises the Pope on matters of science and technology.
- He was named a MacArthur Foundation Fellow and received a



Opposite page: Fr. Newport giving a retreat to freshmen and sophomores in 1952. Left: Gordon Getty '51. Above: Dr. Peter Raven '53 is the director of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

“genius” award for his work.

- The National Geographic Society recently named him chairman of the Committee for Research and Exploration.
- ABC named him a person of the week in 1988, and the *New York Times* ran a story on his achievements on the cover of its “Science Times” section.
- He has authored more than 400 articles and 16 books, including two leading college textbooks and the biology text used at SI.
- Since 1971, he has turned the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis into one of the world’s leading centers for plant conservation.
- In 2000, he received the National Medal of Science from President Clinton, recognizing him an authority on plant systematics and evolution and as the originator of the concept of coevolution.

Raven started his remarkable career at age 8 when he enrolled as the youngest member of the student section of the California Academy of Sciences. In his sophomore year at SI, he discovered a species of beetle and a rare shrub in the Presidio — the Presidio Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos hookeri ravenii*). Since then, he has had dozens of newly discovered plants and animals named for him.

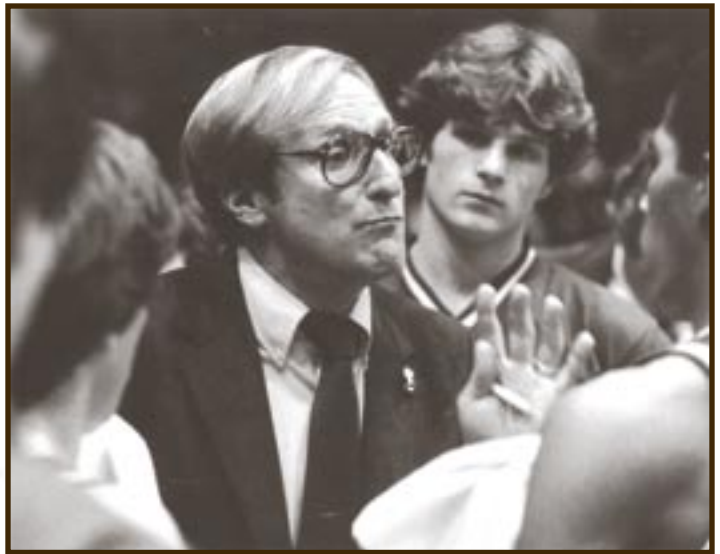
After two years at USF, he transferred to UC Berkeley. He has worked at Stanford, in New Zealand and all over South and Central America in his long and successful career.

Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla '53

Bishop Carlos Sevilla, whose parents immigrated to San Francisco from Colima, Mexico, near Guadalajara, is the only SI grad to be named a bishop. (Msgr. Eugene Fahy '29, who died in 1996, was granted many of the powers of a bishop in 1951 for his missionary work in China, though he was never granted the title of bishop given the Church structures there at the time.) He entered the Society of Jesus after graduating from SI and was ordained a priest in 1966. His appointment came Dec. 6, 1988 as auxiliary bishop of San Francisco, and on Dec. 31, 1996, Pope John Paul II named him Bishop of Yakima in Washington State.

Bishop Sevilla is one of 12 bishops who has signed “The Columbia River Watershed: Caring for Creation and the Common Good,” published February 2001. The half million residents of the Diocese of Yakima, including 4,000 members of the Yakima Tribe, have much at stake over the fate of the Columbia watershed, as their land fronts more of that river than any other diocese in Oregon or Washington.

Bishop Sevilla and the 11 other co-signatories hoped to offer an opportunity for reflection rather than a



call to specific action, and he called for a future where “we hope to see the best of the watershed of the past: living waters of God’s creation flowing from meadows and mountains to the ocean while providing for the needs of God’s creatures along the way. We ask all people of good will to imagine what they would like the watershed to be like in ten, fifty or one hundred years, and to work conscientiously to make that image a reality.”

In his time as bishop in San Francisco and Washington State, Bishop Sevilla has played a prominent role on several committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (formerly called the National Conference of Catholic Bishops). He has served as consultant for the NCCB Committee on Hispanic Affairs, a member of the NCCB Committee on Marriage and Family Life, chairman of the NCCB Committee on Religious Life and Ministry, a member of the NCCB Committee on Social Development and world Peace Domestic Policy, a member of the USCC Catholic Campaign for Human Development, chairman of the Bishop’s Subcommittee for Translation of Liturgical Texts Into Spanish, co-chairman of the West Coast Dialogue of Catholics and Muslims and a member of the USCCB Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

Bob Drucker '58

Bob Drucker '58 is best known as the Wizard of Westlake for leading SI basketball teams from 1966-1986, taking the 'Cats to the NorCal championship and to the state finals in 1984. Drucker got his start in basketball long before coming to SI when, in 1947, his mother took him to the *San Francisco Examiner* basketball camp at the Mission Armory. He won a shooting contest, received a trophy and had his picture in the paper. That first taste of glory got Drucker hooked on the game. Later, as a student at St. Anne’s, he found himself in a PE class taught by one of his heroes — Jim Kearney '48 — who won the Brophy Award at SI (and later the Christ the King award) and played football for USF’s undefeated, untied and uninvited football team of 1950-51. (Kearney later became a distinguished principal in several San Francisco high schools.)

“He was a hero back then to all the seventh and eighth



graders," recalled Drucker. "We would go to USF football games at Kezar and see him play on the same field the '49ers used, and that was good enough for all of us."

At SI, Drucker played on the 110s, 120s, 130s and varsity teams and trained with Rene Herrerias '44 and Jim Keating. "These men, along with Phil Woolpert, who coached at USF, were the kind of men you admired and respected. They were young and enthusiastic and had a profound influence on me."

Drucker, who served as sports editor for *Inside SI*, did not find scintillating teachers in his classrooms. "They just talked for the entire period. It wasn't even the Socratic method." In his junior year, Drucker found himself in J.B. Murphy's math class. "That was like an island at SI. He would lecture for 5 or 10 minutes and then have us do student-centered work."

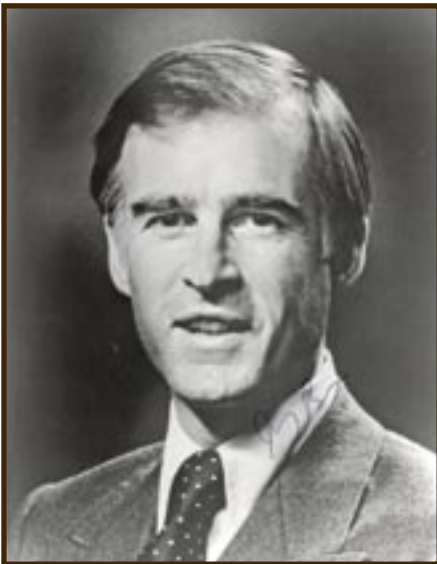
Drucker found himself grateful for the help provided by scholastics. "Fr. Ed Malatesta, SJ, knew I was struggling; he took me aside and encouraged me to work harder. He recognized that I could do better, and we became fast friends until his untimely death."

In the 1990s, both Drucker and the late Jim Kearney were inducted together into the Bay Area Prep Hall of Fame. Drucker later coached golf with Kearney's son, Steve Kearney '81. (For Bob Drucker's fabled career as a basketball coach, read the next chapter.)

Jerry Brown '55

The 1955 yearbook lists this for Edmund "Jerry" Brown, Jr.: "Jerry proved his oratorical abilities by winning the Freshman Elocution and Sophomore Oratorical contests, being chosen on the Silver and Gold Medal Debates, and gaining the Degree of Distinction in the National Forensic League. He was also a

member of the CSF and the Activities Dance Committee." In his senior year, he was a key member of the SI chapter of the NFL that took the Grand Sweepstakes Award, making it the best team in Northern California.



While Brown was a student at SI, his father served as Attorney General for California and, in 1959, voters elected him Governor. Jerry attended SCU and joined the Society of Jesus for a time. After he

left, he earned his B.A. in classics from UC Berkeley in 1961 and then attended Yale Law School in 1964.

Brown received his start in politics in 1969 when voters elected him to the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees. In 1970, he was elected California's Secretary of State, and four years later he followed in his father's footsteps to become California governor, earning reelection in 1978.

He came to SI on October 6, 1978, to register students eligible to vote for the upcoming election. He met with Fr. McCurdy and was interviewed by three students for the school newspaper. At recess, he addressed the student body and spoke about the advantages of living in a democratic society.

During Brown's tenure as governor, California produced a quarter of the country's new jobs. Brown established the nation's first agricultural labor relations law and instituted the California Conservation Corp. He helped to preserve the fragile coastline by creating the California Coastal Protection Act and worked to institute the country's first building and appliance energy efficiency standards, making the state the leader in solar and alternative energy. Brown also takes pride in the number of women and minorities he appointed to government positions.

After leaving office, he traveled to Japan and India, where he worked with Mother Teresa. He practiced law in Los Angeles before becoming chairman of the state's Democratic Party in 1989. Two years later, he resigned from that position, citing his "disgust with the growing influence of money in politics."¹⁸

He ran for president in 1992, making a strong showing thanks, in part, to his refusal to accept contributions larger than \$100, and was the only Democratic candidate to pose a serious threat to Bill Clinton. In 1998, Oakland residents elected him as their city's mayor, and he won reelection in 2002 with the goal of revitalizing the city's downtown "in a spirit of elegant diversity."¹⁹

Dissension in the 1950s

SI in the 1950s was a Shangri-La for most students and teachers, but not for all. Not everyone was happy with the conformity and old school ways imposed both by 1950s America and a pre-Vatican II Society of Jesus. Some students rebelled, such as Michael Corrigan '60, who wrote about his displeasure with Jesuit strictness in the semi-fictional *Confessions of a Shanty Irishman*. (He also sang the praises of Fr. Becker in his book for showing him "the magic alchemy in words.") For the young scholastic Robert Kaiser, SI was both an ideal school and a place that tried his patience.

Kaiser arrived at SI with 10 scholastics from his philosophy studies. "Talk about fresh-faced enthusiasm," he said in a 2003 interview while a visiting scholar at USF. "After being cooped up for seven years, we walked with a spring in our step now that we were suddenly in 'the active life' (as opposed to 'the contemplative life'). I threw myself into the job 110 percent, as did the other scholastics. At 24, I looked about the same age as the 17 year olds I was teaching. I remember going to a senior class picnic and grabbing a beer. One of the dads said, 'You can't have a beer.' Then he discovered that I was one of the scholastics."

As a scholastic, Kaiser worked long hours, rising at 5 a.m. and often working until 2 a.m. In his first year, he ran the frosh Sodality and *Inside SI*, was a prefect at the cafeteria at lunch, coached JV football, taught three courses of freshman English, one Virgil course and two more honors classes in senior English.

"Teaching at SI made me feel special," he said. "We had

Opposite page: Bishop Carlos Sevilla of Yakima, Washington; Bob Drucker '58 (pictured with Paul La Rocca '84) served as one of SI's most successful basketball coaches. Left: Jerry Brown '55, current mayor of Oakland.

a faculty and student body striving for excellence. We were the best. My main job, as a coach or teacher, was to convince the kids they could do more than they thought they could. And they often did.”

Kaiser was closest to his JV football kids. Noontime, they huddled around him in the cafeteria, and they attended ’49ers games en masse thanks to free ’49er tickets provided to schools by Mayor Christopher’s Milk Fund. Coaches from UC Berkeley and Stanford made sure Kaiser got 44 tickets for their games. “The quarterbacks would sit with me, and we’d call the game together. We were like comrades in arms, and I made sure everyone played every game.”

The scene was very different at Welch Hall, where Kaiser lived with “some very old and crotchety priests” assigned to USF. “They didn’t talk to us very much.” He praised some of the priests at SI for their vitality, but they still made the scholastics do most of the grunt work. Their only time off was Friday night when the minister gave the scholastics a case of port or black Muscat from the Novitiate. “There were more than two dozen scholastics then. We could go through a case of port while we played Monopoly or hearts,” said Kaiser. “Audie Morris would always try to shoot the moon and, at a penny a point, he’d end up owing us huge amounts of money.”



Scholastics then received a \$2 weekly allowance to cover “bus fare.” Kaiser and Morris didn’t use the two bucks for bus fare; they spent their money on movies, borrowing the school’s pick-up truck — “the keys were under the mat” — and “tootling down to Market Street Saturday nights in mufti. The movie cost 50 cents and popcorn was a dime. We would have been in trouble if anyone found out we were borrowing the truck, but it was our way of cutting loose at cut rates.”

Kaiser soon found life in the order far too rigid. “We followed the rules woodenly. If I wasn’t awake at 5 a.m., I wasn’t a good Jesuit. If the minister found I wasn’t at Mass at 5:30, I’d be in trouble. Sometimes I was assigned a 6:30 a.m. Mass to serve, and I’d sleep in to 6 a.m., lazy lout that I was. We were then supposed to meditate for one hour before a 7:15 breakfast. But if I slept until 7, after working on *Inside SI* until 2 a.m., I was in trouble. It was all a part of the formalism that prevailed at the time.”

The students, for the most part, didn’t sense this tension. “The kids were happy kids,” said Kaiser. “What was not to be happy about? They were in the best school in the city, getting the best education, envied by all the other kids, and they had an identity. They were from SI and were proud of it.”

In his third year, Kaiser decided to leave the order and SI. “The sacrifices of the three vows were ones I was willing to make as long as I felt I was doing something for the Kingdom. When I found out that my superiors were more interested in reveille and taps, than in the work I did running the school magazine, I

realized the sacrifices weren’t worth it.”

Looking back on it now, Kaiser says “there wasn’t a lot wrong with SI. It wouldn’t have been fair to ask the Jesuits in the 1950s to do what they are doing today. That would be rewriting history. Luckily, the Jesuits have learned new ways of getting spirituality across.”

After Kaiser left SI and the Society of Jesus, he went on to a successful career in journalism. He covered Vatican II for *Time* and is now an editor for *Newsweek*. He is the author of 10 books, including *Clerical Error*, which recounts, in part, his years at SI. Kaiser is also the editor of the online magazine www.justgoodcompany.com, published by Westcoast Companeros Inc., a club of more than 200 men who have left the Jesuits. “It comes out spasmodically,” he says. “I still feel I’m a Jesuit at heart,” he adds. “And I still have a strong identity with SI. In 2002, I met a guy in a restaurant in Venice who turned out to be a student at SI when I served there as a scholastic. We had a tremendous sense of belonging.”

Three Candid Critiques

Dan Flynn ’57, who served as editor of *Inside SI* in his senior year, now teaches ESL in Belgium. Looking back on his days at SI, he sees several problems with the way he was taught and with what he was taught. Michael Corrigan ’60, the author of *Confessions of a Shanty Irishman* and *The Irish Connection and Other Stories*, also found SI at times to be an oppressive place.

The third critique, by C. T. (Terry) Gillin ’62, reflects on the value of Jesuit education in the 1950s; he praises the Jesuits for teaching him to read critically, for encouraging him to evaluate what he was learning and for inspiring him to model his own life after theirs.

SI changed drastically in the 1960s and 1970s to fix the problems discussed by Flynn and Corrigan while keeping alive the core values — the ones Gillin and many others found valuable. Spurring these changes were Vatican II, the needs of a new generation of students, and the desire of Principal Edward McFadden, SJ, and the faculty to turn SI into a modern school.

By Daniel C. Flynn, ’57

All in all, I am totally grateful for my years at SI. I just wish the Church at that time hadn’t been so uptight about sex. Women were portrayed as “occasions of sin.” Good grief. Nevertheless, life has “turned out well” for me and I am completely grateful for the life I have today.

Actually, people of my age were lucky. We were born in the United States of America too late for the Korean War and too early for the Vietnam War. We benefited from America having won World War II and having helped Japan and Germany recover from their defeat. We did suffer from the ailing President Roosevelt’s concessions to Stalin, the most malicious dictator of our century, to bring a more rapid end to World War II, but we survived the

Left: Bob Kaiser, now an editor for Newsweek, taught as a scholastic at SI in the 1950s. Opposite page: Fr. George Dennis, SJ, teaches Latin in 1951.

subsequent Cold War that resulted from those concessions.

First impressions of SI: Fifty years ago, I entered St. Ignatius High School at Turk and Stanyan Streets. My first impression was “gray.” (I have a picture of our senior retreat at El Retiro taken February 1957. It’s a grim gray picture with little evidence of joy.) After I spent eight years in the colorful classrooms of Notre Dame des Victoires and then St. Monica’s,



the gray, dank rooms of SI stood ominously in stark contrast. (My Belgian friend and former SI classmate George De Cat '57 will tell you that the SI classrooms were fantastic compared to his post-war primary school classrooms in Belgium. It all depends on your life experience and point of view.) Maybe it was the fact that we were no longer in class with beautiful young women — just guys. What were they trying to protect us from? Maybe it was because we had stepped back in time to the Middle Ages or even the Dark Ages when we entered SI. I learned years later that our Jesuit teachers had actually whipped themselves in the seminary for holiness!

Teachers: Mr. Piser, SJ, English, now Robert Blair Kaiser, journalist and author; Mr. Eugene Bianchi, SJ, Sociology and 4-A homeroom teacher, now a layman and professor emeritus at Emory University in Atlanta; Mr. Andrew Dachauer, SJ, chemistry; Mr. Leo Rock, SJ, Latin; Mr. Corwin, history; and Fr. Spohn, physics. Dachauer was a nice guy for me. I wonder where he is today. [Editor’s note: Fr. Dachauer is pastor of St. Joseph’s Church in Mammoth Lakes, California.]

Moments: Being Editor-in-Chief of *Inside SI* and producing an innovative *Sports Illustrated*-style monthly magazine after Bob (Piser) Kaiser had replaced the typical high school style newsletter with a *Time* magazine-style publication the year before. Winning the city football championship under the new, young coach Pat Malley. Being one of five cheerleaders that season. Winning awards for acting out James Thurber’s *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* in citywide competition. Watching Fred LaCour lead SI to a city championship in basketball. Acquiring a lifelong skill by taking a pre-school morning typing class from Rene Herrerias, the basketball coach. Playing on the SI soccer and tennis teams and winning a block letter.

Classes: Mr. Rock giving up on our 4-A “Honors Program” class in Latin and having us read the rest of Caesar’s Gallic Wars in English. The walls of the classroom bending in an earthquake one year.

Antics: The Jesuits trying to teach us that kissing above the neck is a venial sin and below a mortal sin. They couldn’t have been serious, but they were, and some of us were so na-

ive as to have believed them. A Jesuit spiritual director preaching to us that we should pin a scapular to our pajama pants at night to protect us from temptation.

Tragedies: A symbol of the sexual revolution to come — a talented young student who played the guitar was thoroughly punished by the priests and scholastics for a mild imitation of Elvis Presley at a pre-game coed rally one afternoon.

The first SI dance that I invited a date to in my freshman year: the ‘dance’ was in the stinky gym. There were no decorations, no band, no nothing. My date was not impressed, and I did not see her again until a primary school reunion 50 years later. Having to take Latin and ancient Greek because I was selected for the honors program. How about useful modern languages such as Spanish (third in number of native speakers in the world) or Chinese (first in number of native speakers)? They are just as useful for “training the mind” — the excuse we were given as to why we were being trained in Latin and ancient Greek.

The sex advice I got from Fr. Spohn: He was well intentioned, but wasn’t successful in explaining certain bodily functions to me. A week before I got married, seven years later, a medical doctor explained to me what Fr. Spohn had not. (My dad had died when I was 10, and there was no one in the family to counsel me to take the Church’s teaching with a grain of salt.) We had a perfectly awful textbook called “Modern Youth and Chastity” to guide us in sexual matters.

Philosophic reflections: It seems our class was near the end of the medieval-style education that the highly educated, but insulated, Jesuits tried to pass on to us. Some Jesuits had worldly experience, but most lived in the luxurious men’s club that was known as the Society of Jesus so long as you played by their rules. The world was a shock after I left the Catholic cocoon of the 1950s and entered the Army for two years as an officer. Did I have more talented teachers at SI, especially among the scholastics and lay teachers like Mr. Corwin, than I would have had had I gone to public high school? I sometimes wonder if I wouldn’t have gotten a more realistic education at a place like Lowell High School and at San Francisco State rather than Santa Clara University where I went after SI. It no longer matters. I’m grateful for this free gift of life that I do have. Today, SI appears to be a colorful, lively place. But it also appears to be a school primarily for rich people’s children. (Editor’s note: *SI* awards more than \$1 million in tuition assistance to about 20 percent of the student body, ensuring that no one is denied an *SI* education for lack of funding.)



I wound up winning the General Excellence Award at graduation, but it turned out to be a hollow award for me. I was extremely touched by the award, but I did not feel good about it. Many of my classmates were much more talented than I. I felt alone, apart and alienated from them by the award, while my self-esteem glowed in the false, ephemeral sustenance it gave me. Today, I feel my classmates are loveable guys, and my only regret is that I wasn't capable at the time of getting to know them better. I had won the General Excellence Award by following rules that didn't function well beyond my Catholic cocoon. So, despite the award, I was ill-equipped for the greater world at large. I survived, though, and I have a beautiful life in Europe today with a wonderful wife, and for that I'm grateful.

So, what is the residual value to me of that Jesuit high school education at SI 50 years ago? I still have quite positive memories and souvenirs of my years at SI. I have my big SI block letter that I won in sports and wore on my white cheerleader sweater. I still have copies of all the *Inside SIs* I edited. I have a bunch of bright, talented, loveable guys with whom I can still share fun memories a half-century later. Nonetheless, my two primary school reunions are even more fun. I can share memories with bright, talented, loveable women as well.

By Michael Corrigan '60

I thought the curriculum at SI was broad and scholastically viable, though I didn't want four more years of religion after eight years with the nuns of Notre Dame. The Jesuits used corporal punishment, which I didn't appreciate, but they were certainly

knowledgeable. The Modern Youth and Chastity course was ridiculous in retrospect, and the absence of girls and/or sex education was a flaw. I was amused at the quaint term, "self abuse" or "solitary use of the genitive faculty" for masturbation. I wanted to attend a public school but my father wouldn't allow it.

I did like some aspects of SI. The drama teacher was also a singer, and I acted in *Paint Your Wagon*, which only confirmed my lifelong love of professional theatre. Fr. Becker brought literature to life. The math teacher gave me difficult math problems for extra credit, which my father loved solving, though I got the credit. Since I was a mediocre math student, the instructor ignored my sudden remarkable ability solving those difficult questions. Certainly, I did learn the value of discipline that helped me when I decided to take graduate school seriously.

I don't remember much student camaraderie. Two friends left SI in their second year. I did feel somewhat alienated not being a superior athlete, and I was disconnected from SI by my final year, as most of my friends were outside the school.

The school was simply too strict, too much like a military camp for my tastes, though, when I visited SI in March 2004, I found it to be quite remarkable. In an odd way, SI did prompt me to better understand Joyce's *Portrait of the Artist as A Young Man* and Camus' work, which could be used as an argument against the Jesuit style of education in those days.

Top: The Stanyan Street campus in the late 1950s. In 1959, SI and USF formally separated into distinct corporations. The high school remained on Stanyan Street until 1969 and then moved to the Sunset District. Look for the story of the 2001 campus in the next installment, to be included in the Summer 2005 edition of Genesis IV.

The Ignatian Spirit . . . Half a Century Later

By C.T. (Terry) Gillin '62

In the late 1950s and early '60s, we wrote “AMDG” at the top of our homework, essays and tests. *Ad majorem Dei gloriam* (“for the greater glory of God”) may be virtually all that remains of my four years of Latin, but it embodies the Ignatian spirit that lingers in my life almost half a century later. “AMDG” was a reminder that the work, however routine, bore the meaning we brought to it with our own intentions. It was a sign that our work was done with respect for ourselves as well as for the assignment.

In 1958, St Ignatius High School took a child and, over four years, turned him into an adult — as Jesuits have been doing for hundreds of years. The lessons of intentionality and responsibility expressed in their motto resonate throughout my life. They can be summarized in three points. First, the Jesuits taught me “to read.” Reading is not as simple as it seems; it requires interpreting, making sense out of the story or essay by understanding its assumptions and implications. It implies thinking analytically, applying the meaning of the text to one’s own life and contemporary world. Reading is an invitation to think about the kind of person one wants to be and the kind of society one wants to help build.

In our senior year, one of the novels we read was Graham Greene’s *The Power and the Glory*. As I recall it, the story concerns a “whiskey priest” caught in the turmoil of Mexico’s revolution that has outlawed the Church. The central figure has given up his priestly vows to save his life; he is living with a woman and struggling with his conscience. He hears that an escaped convict is in the mountains and wants to confess before he dies. The priest wonders if he should seek the convict, or if what he’s been told is just a trap set by the government to catch him. In the end, the priest chooses to search for the convict and is caught by the government. I remember the way Fr. Becker questioned us about the novel: Because

the priest is living a sinful life, will he be damned? Or, because he lays down his life for another, will he be saved? Through the discussion that followed, we were invited to recognize something of the complexity of life, to move beyond the child’s world of black-and-white morality, and to think and evaluate for ourselves.

This remembrance leads me to a second point. The Jesuits taught us not only to think but also to evaluate: to recognize that our everyday actions, the ordinary things we think about and do, are important. Each thing we do matters: how I respond to family, friends, colleagues and strangers such as other drivers, people on the street and panhandlers. The Jesuits taught that we are all a little like the whiskey priest. Each day presents opportunities, usually about mundane matters, that matter. It seems to me, the Ignatian question is, How am I to respond? And the assumption is that we each have deep within ourselves the ability to know how to respond.

Thirdly, I remember being impressed by the Jesuits themselves, their commitment to teaching and their dedication to us, their students. At SI, the Jesuits gave us a place to define ourselves, to be grateful for our accomplishments and to be tolerant of the inevitable mistakes, our own as well as others’. I saw them as role models for a way to live that makes a difference — loving my family, dedicated to my work, contributing to the community, working toward the development of a just world. Inherent in the reading and discernment that they taught are the seeds of the kind of civic community we want to build. It was the experience of my Jesuit teachers that led me to become a teacher and inspired me to understand teaching as more than the transmission of ideas; rather, teaching helps students connect their understanding to their own actions. For me, the “more” (the “*majorem*”) in the Jesuit motto is the belief that I can come to a better understanding of my self and the world and that we each can make a difference.

Terry Gillin lives with his wife and son and is a professor of sociology at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada.

NOTES

Chapter VI

- ¹ McGloin, *Jesuits*, 107-108.
- ² *Ignatian*, 1924. 135.
- ³ *Ignatian*, 1924. 136; 1925. 124.
- ⁴ McGloin, *Jesuits*, 139.
- ⁵ *Ignatian*, 1925. 101; 1926. 107-109.
- ⁶ *The Heights*, 1929. 66.
- ⁷ McGloin, *Jesuits*, 142.
- ⁸ While the gymnasium was part of the original design, the school did not build one until the 1950s.
- ⁹ *San Francisco Chronicle*, “Early Baron’s Homes on the Range.” September 25, 2004. F1.
- ¹⁰ Riordan, 212.
- ¹¹ “Early Baron’s,” F1.
- ¹² Fr. Privett made this remark in an email he sent to members of the USF community regarding a student-led protest to rename Phelan Hall.
- ¹³ McGloin, *Jesuits*, 122; “Early Baron’s,” F6.
- ¹⁴ McGloin, *Jesuits*, 140.

Chapter VII

- ¹ McGloin, *Jesuits*, 144.
- ² McGloin, *Jesuits*, 144-145.
- ³ *The OceanSlider*, March 7, 1980. 12.
- ⁴ *The Red and Blue*, November 26, 1934.
- ⁵ Among those who received the 8-year scholarship to SI, in addition to Wilsey, were Loyola University President Charles Casassa, SJ '28, USF President Charles Dullea, SJ '34, and SCU President Patrick Donohoe, SJ '31.

Chapter VIII

- ¹ McGloin, *Jesuits*, 123.
- ² Francis X. Murphy, *The Fighting Admiral: the Story of Dan Callaghan*. New York: Vantage Press, Inc. 1952. 11.
- ³ Murphy, 12-13.
- ⁴ Murphy, 15.
- ⁵ Murphy, 110.
- ⁶ Murphy, 152.

- ⁷ Murphy, 190.
- ⁸ Murphy, 203-204.
- ⁹ From *Courage, Honor and Compassion: a Tribute to Vice Admiral William M. Callaghan, 2001*, a brochure used at the ceremony honoring Callaghan.
- ¹⁰ <http://www.usmissouri.com/press/2001/27Mar.htm>
- ¹¹ 1946 *Ignatian* yearbook
- ¹² Genesis III, Summer 1991.

Chapter IX

- ¹ Rooney Report, May 29, 1950, located in the USF Archives, also cited in McGloin, *Jesuits*, 145.
- ² McKeivitt, *Santa Clara*, 204.
- ³ SI Archives.
- ⁴ McGloin, *Jesuits*, 146.
- ⁵ McGloin, *Jesuits*, 147.
- ⁶ McGloin, *Jesuits*, 147.
- ⁷ *Ignatian*, 1955. 8.
- ⁸ *Ignatian Bulletin*, December 1956.
- ⁹ *Inside SI*, March 20, 1950; April 13, 1951; & February 15, 1955.

- ¹⁰ *Inside SI*, May 5, 1950
- ¹¹ *Inside SI*, Sept. 20, 1956. 8.
- ¹² *Inside SI*, “SI Football: A 55 Year Tradition,” by Mark Hazelwood '79, September 14, 1979. 8.
- ¹³ *Ignatian*, 1950
- ¹⁴ *St. Ignatius Church Monthly Calendar*, 1950. 172-173.
- ¹⁵ *Ignatian*, 1950.
- ¹⁶ *Inside SI*, January & April 1958.
- ¹⁷ John Pearson, *Painfully Rich: The Outrageous Fortune and Misfortunes of the Heirs of J. Paul Getty*. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1995. 74, 76.
- ¹⁸ Biographical information from the City of Oakland’s web site.
- ¹⁹ City of Oakland web site.