“Rest On The Flight Into Egypt”
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By Jack Seydow, Ph.D., '65

Maurice Schepers, a 65-year-old Dominican priest, came to La Salle in 1968. After teaching in our Religion department for almost 25 years, he was granted a leave of absence to study Swahili in Tanzania. Last year he taught at a seminary on the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya. After spending two months in the States this past summer, he returned to Kenya where he resumed his teaching.

Located in East Africa—touching the Indian Ocean and bordered by Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania—Kenya, 25% Roman Catholic, reportedly has the highest annual birth rate in the world. While it will take an estimated 88 years in the United States for the population to double, that expectation in Kenya is 19 years. Additionally, 50% of the Kenyan people are under the age of 15, as opposed to 22% in the U.S. In 1979, the
population density in Kenya was 26.4 persons per square kilometer; by 1989, that had increased to 36.9. In a country slightly smaller than Texas, over 26 million live; what exacerbates that situation is that 75% of Kenya’s people inhabit only 10% of its land, making the density in what is termed Kenya’s “favoured areas” some 400 persons per square kilometer. This spring, in Kenya’s first election since 1978, and despite widespread allegations of corruption and improprieties in the election process, Daniel arap Moi was renamed president. Following that election, and primarily in response to Moi’s new economic reforms, both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund imposed much tighter restrictions—termed “cruel” by President Moi—on lending money to Kenya. In 1990, the World Bank calculated Kenya’s GDP at $380 per capita (versus $440 in Haiti, for example).

This interview took place at La Salle in July, a day before Father Schepers departed for Africa. In 1983, Schepers was featured in a LA SALLE Magazine article, written by Jack Seydow, titled “Marathon Man.”

In his encyclical “The Future of Africa,” Pius XII proclaimed that “the expansion of the Church in Africa over the last decades is a reason for joy and pride among all Christians.” But that was 1957, and the Pope was talking about Africa in general. What are your views of the state of Roman Catholicism in Kenya today?

The first thing that I would say is that the Catholic Church as well as the Protestant churches have their roots in colonialism. So it was a kind of colonial type mission: religion or cult, commerce, civilization. By the time Pius XII had written Fidei Donum, I guess we had come to recognize that that’s not the way it works. But that was before Independence Day—1963 in Kenya—and even before that time there was a kind of movement among the missionaries to separate religion from Western civilization.

Would you be considered a missionary?

In the popular mind, yes. I don’t think of myself as a missionary, though, but as a minister with the church—a minister to and with people, a teacher and preacher. However, in answer to your original question, the Roman Catholic Church of Kenya is very Roman. It kind of reminds me of the saying about the Catholic Church in France, Spain, and Italy: the French Church is most Christian, the Spanish Church is most Roman, and the Italian Church is most Catholic. Anyway, it’s very Roman because the episcopacy in Eastern Africa is very much tied into the Roman Church because of their training.

You fit right in there, then?

Well, what I would say is that the Vatican is really afraid of what’s happening in Africa today. It’s kind of analogous to what was happening towards the end of the 19th century in America: the fear that the American church was going astray. And I
think that’s very real today in Africa. The growth of the Church has been so explosive and the movement toward enculturation so intense that the people who are really interested in promoting centralization are very afraid. So I think that’s the basic tension: ideologically, the ecclesiology of a worldwide church with a central authority and then the local churches somehow functioning in relation to the central authority, as contrasted with an ecclesiology where you are in communion with each other and somehow honoring the central authority.

Isn’t that sort of what exists in South America?

Sort of, yes. The bishops of East Africa, perhaps as early as 1974, made their primary pastoral priority the organizing and promoting of what they termed “the small Christian community.” It’s what the Latin Americans call the comunidades de base. And that does threaten a Church which functions out of a central authority.

I saw that work in Tanzania where I went for language training, particularly in one of its dioceses where the bishop is European educated and strongly supports the concept of the small Christian community. Living in this village are two Swiss priests and three Capuchin brothers—one of whom is the superior of the community—and in the parish that they service there are about twenty or twenty-five small Christian communities. The parents prepare their children in the community for Baptism, for marriage, and for Confirmation. Then they are brought into the parish church for the celebration of the Eucharist. So all that kind of catechesis takes place in the small Christian community.

Other than the Capuchins, what other “outsiders” are ministering to those East African Catholics? How many Dominicans, for example?

This coming year there will be five Dominican friars from the U.S. and one Dominican brother from the Czech republic—six in all—in two small communities, teaching in two regional seminaries.

I hadn’t been aware of the Christian Brothers’ presence in East Africa. What role do they play?

Their presence in East Africa probably goes back some 30, 35 years. Within the past 15 years or so, they’ve entrenched somewhat, though. They had founded minor seminaries or secondary schools run now by missionaries. The expectation is that five per cent of the students will go on to a major seminary and study philosophy. Their schools, then, are very decent secondary schools, which in a way seed vocations to the diocesan clergy. The Christian Brothers are mainly concentrating now in Kenya, with really good schools in about four different places, focusing on leadership training of lay leaders, with a big emphasis on agriculture.

Where are the Brothers coming from? America? The Baltimore province?

Yes, Bud Knight, Leo Smith, and Paul Joslin are three American Christian Brothers who head up the formation communities in Nairobi. Then there are some other Brothers. The vicar of that group is a man named Marty Spellman; he’s from the mid-West.

Any culture shock? For example, where do you live, what do you eat, what did you miss most?

Chocolate! Although I don’t really miss it any more because I found a source. But, anyhow, we acquired a property in Nairobi, owned by a British businessman, built for his family and his three sisters. He was going home, put the house on the market just as we arrived, and we got this very spacious, rather comfortable home, which we have retrofitted to house 17 people. It has a dining room and a chapel. The sitting room faces East, and on the end of it we have our worship space. The sun comes up right over that space, and it’s really wonderful.

You were getting a cow?

We were, and we may have already obtained it.
Part of the blessing was for me to spit at the end of Mass. The African people were astounded that it would happen and they were delighted.

Is there a problem with hunger in Nairobi?

The food is there—as long as you like beans—but not everybody can get at it. Because in the slums most everybody is unemployed and there’s just no money around. Most people are really scratching for survival.

What about transportation? Gasoline prices?

I walk, ride a bicycle, by mini-van, bus. Gasoline costs between eight and ten dollars a gallon.

What would be the hourly wage for, say, a secondary school teacher?

We calculate the salaries by the month, and a school teacher would probably make about 3,000 shillings, or about $37, a month. A school teacher doesn’t have a car, therefore, and gets around either by walking or bus.

Lots of traffic?

Bicycles all over the place, Chinese and Indian made. In the center of Nairobi town, unbelievable traffic. But as soon as you get out to the suburbs, you see lots of people walking along the road—astonishing to me when I first got to Nairobi and travelled from the airport to where I was living.

I understand that Kenya has the highest population density of any sub-Saharan nation.

Well, we’re still a rural population, with only 20% of the population living in the city. But, despite that density that you mentioned, there are places where nobody lives, just cattle.

What’s the climate like?

Where we are, in the highlands of Nairobi at 5,000 feet, it’s very moderate. So, in our sense of the word, there are no seasons. During July and August, it’s cool. The weather in September and October is beautiful, clear and breezy and warm, not hot. Then the wind comes up from the Indian Ocean, and it starts to rain. Then, until December, everything is mud, and you literally get around—from house to vehicle, from bus to house—in gum boots. The rains taper off around Christmas, and there’s a hot period until the middle of February. But, again, it’s really never that hot. Despite an unforgiving equatorial sun in the middle of...
the day, the temperature is not that intolerable. At the end of March it begins getting cooler, and the long rains begin and last until the first of June. Then you have a period of marvelous, beautiful weather.

We had talked one other time about the repressive government, and the potential of civil war and other instabilities.

There's that and it's complicated by the conflicts within the tribes, among the tribes. And that's fomented, in part, by the government. They know that tribal conflict is an essential condition for their exercise of that repressive power. And the economy is in the hands of a few very powerful people. The people at the very top are extremely large landowners, the president himself and the vice-president. They are people, though, whom you sense really know they're in jeopardy: they're always somehow covering their bases. Then you have a very united group of Catholic bishops who, from the time the election grew on the horizon a couple of years ago, have been very forthright in their criticism of the government—so forthright that it shocks me to see how political they are. They have proclaimed that the government has lost credibility, and even suggested publicly that the government step down, resign.

From the pulpit?

Yes, in the sense that they publish their letters. So the lower clergy in the Catholic Church are really licensed by those letters to somehow be activists themselves.

The Church is much more revolutionary in Kenya than, say, in the U.S.?

That's a fact. And it's a kind of a paradox when you compare it with what I said about the Roman quality. They're very loyal to the central authority of the Church. At the same time they're very concerned with the social conditions in their own nation and so much so that they will really go out and risk themselves. I really think they are risking themselves.

The Pope did not get a very good reception in Jamaica, if he came to Kenya, what kind of a reception would he get?

Among the Catholic people he would be welcomed with great love. And I think that would be true for people generally, not just Catholics: he would be welcomed as a great religious leader. He was in Kenya in 1985 and was very well received.

What about women in Kenya?

They are beasts of burden. When I say beasts of burden, I'm referring to one of the first things that one notices in driving from the airport in Nairobi out to the suburbs: women bearing, quite literally, burdens. There is a division of labor in the agricultural area. The women cultivate the garden, with the children, while the men harvest. The women then bear the harvest. And they bear everything else, not just children. The women walk with great burdens—cans of water, weighing about 60 pounds—on their heads, and it looks very efficient and they look so dignified. But when they get to be older—just in their 40's and early 50's—they're really bent over, really old looking. We have had to intervene in our own household with an employee regarding certain kinds of exploitation of his wife.

They're treated, then, as under the old system, as chattel, as men's property? What about the law?

As far as I can tell, there are very few laws which protect women and children. They really are at the mercy of people who wield authority within the family or the tribe.

Any hope that such attitudes and behaviors will change? How much cultural exchange, for example, do Kenyans have with the West, thus seeing women empowered in positions of leadership and control?

Well, in that respect I think there is lots of hope. I have a sense that the young men with whom I am in touch, in the seminary and the university, are very positive in their resolve to give women their due. I don't know what happens when these young fellows are ordained and they go back to their villages, I think there is a great temptation for them to become chiefs and not to be revolutionary. But I have hope that they will work to correct that wrong. There are, too, some remarkable women leaders in Kenya who are speaking out. I was in a seminar in January that included one of the most notorious of the women activists, a young woman who is constantly the target of persecution by the government because of her candor in speaking out against the unjust treatment of women.

What are the students there like? You're teaching what?

Ecclesiology, mostly, and ecumenism. The university students would be basically the same age as your students at La Salle, men and
women, some of them a bit older, with some work experience, including some who have done some teaching on the primary level, because it’s obviously not necessary to have a college degree in order to teach. They come from families not really poor—poor circumstances, certainly by our standards, but coming from families that are able to support them in some ways to matriculate at the university. In the seminary, you have a fairly broad spectrum of people because it’s regional; therefore, you have seminarians from a number of tribes. So the various tribes are represented, in a beautiful sense, even in the seminary.

What have the students taught you? And, in essence, what do the Kenyan people have to teach all of us?

There’s a sense in which they are ahead of us at what I would call the symbolic level. That probably goes with their culture, which you could say is less sophisticated than ours, but much more in touch with the great symbols of tribal existence, initiation rites, things like that, which are still very much a part of their heritage, though dying out a little bit now. Those great symbols of rites of passage are very explicit in their culture. And they’re by and large simple, straightforward people, but very in touch with the great archetypal symbols, although not in a kind of reflective way. We know a lot about those things because we’ve read Karl Jung. But when Brother Bud Knight asked these young novices if they wanted to put together a ritual for one of our Masses, they responded with relish. They were itching to do it, and they really enjoyed doing it. It was not a show. And at the end of the ritual they taught me how to spit. Did I tell you about their teaching me to spit?

No, no—that I would remember.

Yes, part of the blessing was for me to spit. This is the blessing of the father: to spit—or even to spit into the face of—and to touch the son. They said that we ought to do this, that I ought to do this, at the end of Mass. So, they suggested that, just before the final blessing, I take a mouthful of water at the altar and spit it out onto the ground. And the African people, they were astounded that it would happen, and they were delighted. They talked after the Mass to me, and told me that I did it right, that I did it well. And I didn’t feel as if I were acting, actually, because it was so much a part of their culture, and they were so welcoming.

You had said something to me before about the Kenyans’ patience.

They stand in line, they wait, for hours—for water, to get a doctor to sign a form, and at the post office, which is the worst. And their patience is tied to a kind of pace, the regular, natural cycles of daylight and nighttime hours when you live on the equator. Nothing is ever hurried. Not to romanticize this, but I do think they have a sense that it’s the event that counts, not the time it takes. For example, a Mass can take hours. They’re used to public speakers who seem to go on forever. It is nothing, then, for a bishop to get up at the end of mass and deliver extemporaneous remarks for 30–45 minutes even. It’s expected.

What exasperates you about the culture?

Things like that. Absolutely!

We’re so western?

Well, partly, but another thing suggested by that is their respect for the elders and for authorities. In the classroom, for example, it’s a problem. The first problem is not to get people to listen, but to get them involved in the process. The students’ questions are few and far between, because the presumption is that a question from the floor calls into question the authority of the teacher. Their respect for the elder is very precious, but at the same time it’s a very delicate thing because you can exploit it. There’s a continual exploitation of that virtue by elders, and by authorities even more generally: by the chiefs, by the post office, by the church, even. But it’s a very authentic value, the respect for the elder, that our society could be educated about.

That environment is quite different from what would have been anticipated from a boy growing up in a Dutch Reformed household in Holland, Michigan during the Depression. How many African-Americans were in your high school? And have you felt yourself being looked at in Kenya as, well, the Great White Father?

You’re right; who would have thought? My high school graduating class was, I recall, all white. And as for perceptions, what I’ve experienced is that if you’re white then the expectation is that you have money. That unfortunate perception has been a matter of great personal embarrassment for me. Our community, for example, has tried to live what Americans would consider a rather austere life. Yet by East African standards, we live lavishly.
Earlier, you mentioned television; the whole country has only about one million TV sets, and we decided to do without one.

**Here, in the spawning ground of the world's greatest long distance runners, are you still running?**

Well, yes. On the weekends I work out on the track at the Marist school not far from us. But I'd call my running recreational rather than what you would call competitive. And these Kenyan runners are the truly competitive ones. I see them running on the roads near us. Most are in the military, and that seems to give them the time to train in really systematic, disciplined ways. I haven't had the opportunity to talk to any of them, though.

**Is your Swahili good enough to converse without an interpreter?**

I think so. Learning Swahili has been very difficult, however. But I give my Sunday homily in Swahili. I write it by, say, Tuesday, and then get one of the African novices to go over it with me.

I understand that you've been invited to climb Mount Kilimanjaro this coming year. Since I know that you know Hemingway's "The Snows of Kilimanjaro," you'll certainly recall the epigraph to the story and the details about the Masai' calling the summit of that mountain the "House of God" and the perplexing observation, referring to the carcass of a leopard found close to that summit, that "No one has explained what the leopard was seeking at that altitude." May I ask what you are seeking at that altitude? That is, why did you go to Africa, and why are you returning?

Well, that's right at the nitty gritty. There's a lot of ways I could answer that. You know about my interest in Jung and in myth, and that was certainly part of what attracted me. Less pedantically, though, I guess part of it has to do with being a Dominican. La Salle is a tough place to leave, and yet I think a Dominican should be someone on the move. The challenges there are great—the teaching has not been easy and I have a lot yet to learn—but it's just something that I felt I had to do.
Like a soft kiss, off the glass

Everyone just knew that Bill Raftery was destined for pro basketball. As a player, not an announcer

By Frank Bilorsky, ’62

Everybody knew it was inevitable from the first time they saw Bill Raftery with a basketball.

La Salle’s basketball coach Dudey Moore knew it when he saw Raftery in 1958, the first year he scouted him at St. Cecelia’s High School in Kearney, N.J.

John Christel and Phil McGuire, who lived across the hall on the first floor of St. Albert’s Hall, in September 1959 knew it when they saw Raftery in pickup games on the asphalt court behind the dorms.

English professor Dan Rodden knew it the first time he saw Raftery play a game for the Explorer frosh that December. And no doubt told Brother Henry about it the next time he saw him on campus.

Brother Henry probably told Rodden, “Yeah, I knew it a month ago when I was watching practice.”

Danny McDyre, Raftery’s classmate from Marlton, N.J., might have been able to throw a javelin a heck of a lot farther than Bill could shoot a basketball. But even he knew it almost immediately.

What everybody knew right away was that Raftery was destined for the National Basketball Association.

Of course they all thought that he was going to play pro basketball, not tell people about it while it was being played.

But fate has a strange way of dealing with people’s lives. Or maybe Raftery knows how to express that thought even better.

“I guess everything works the way God wants it to work,” he said. “I really enjoyed my four years at La Salle. And I really enjoyed the game. I came up short in terms of pursuing it any further, but the alternate was pretty darn good.”

And not just for the 52-year-old Raftery, but all those college and pro basketball fans across the country who get the opportunity to listen and to see him work 125 or more games on television from early November to late May every year.

He does the New Jersey Nets - home and away - on Sports Channel New York.

He does the Big East and other top conferences during the college season on ESPN. When La Salle was in the Metro-Atlantic Conference, he did the conference tournament from the Knickerbocker Center in Albany and got to see Speedy Morris and the
Explorer players accomplish something he missed in his four years at 20th and Olney - making the NCAA tournament field.

These days, though, Raftery makes the tournament as a commentator for CBS. And in an age where college basketball commentary is too categorized as a frenetic “SLAM. BAM. JAM,” Raftery’s analysis is as refreshing as an after-dinner mint following a meal of linquini and clams with a side of garlic bread.

Raftery doesn’t call up-and-down performers “Dow Jonesers.” He doesn’t call talented freshmen “Diaper Dandies.” But if you need a “T.O., Baby,” from the Omnispresent Oracle of Overstatement, Raftery is the one you’ll like.

The sad thing about Dick Vitale is that he knows the game and can analyze it with the best of them. But he has become a parody of himself and an unwelcome guest in many family rooms.

Raftery, on the other hand, picks up defensive changes quicker than any college basketball analyst. He raises his voice when the play warrants it. He is never bigger than the game, à la Vitale and, in an earlier time, Howard Cosell. And not only doesn’t he overshadow what is happening on the floor, he also remains subordinated to the man with the headset and microphone sitting next to him.

He’s calling the Nets and the Big East again this season, neatly turning phrases and sounding more like your next door neighbor than Dickie Know-It-All.

In the 34 years since he showed up on the La Salle campus from his North Jersey home, Bill Raftery has polished his style without feeling like he has to polish his silverware.

“He’s never gone uptown,” said Donald “Dee” Rowe, the former University of Connecticut basketball coach in a moment of truth and candor during the Bill Raftery Roast at Atlantic City’s Trump Taj Mahal last September.

And Raftery got the chance to prove it during his rebuttal at the roast.

He told the story of the first time he went to the home of his wife, Joan, when they were dating in the late 1960s.

He said he was a row-house, Kensington kind of guy — still is, in fact. And he recalled driving to his date’s home and commenting to her doctor father that he certainly had an impressive alleyway out there.

“Up here, we call it a driveway,” the father said.

True story? Hardly. But believable? If you know Raftery, definitely. He enjoys poking fun at himself in whatever of his past lives is applicable - Division III coach at Fairleigh Dickinson Madison campus before it was even called Division III, Converse salesman, head coach at Seton Hall, banker.

But when he talks about his responsibility as one of America’s best color analysts, he turns serious.

He said he has worked with somewhere between 40 and 60 play-by-play men since Len Berman and he started doing the Big East Monday Night Game of the Week in 1980.

“I always feel the play-by-play guy sets the tone and it’s your job to get in sync and make the thing work,” he said. “And it’s worked for me. The play-by-play man is the meat and potatoes. My job is just don’t screw the thing up.

“I think it’s important to watch the game and not be overbearing and see some lightness or some entertaining facet, be into it enough so that you don’t ruin it for the guy who knows everything and yet (don’t talk over) a lot of people who are first time viewers.
"Raftery’s analysis is as refreshing as an after-dinner mint following a meal of linguini and clams with a side of garlic bread."

"So many people understand the game, so to state the obvious is a problem. You’ve got to see the other thing — why it’s happened rather than what’s happened."

Someone once told him that broadcasting style was not something you determined. “Just do your game and your style will occur,” he was told.

It has happened. His style has become as smooth as his favorite term for a banked shot — “the soft kiss off the glass.”

But if you grew up with him in Kearney or spent time with him at La Salle, which won a recruiting battle with Seton Hall, Georgetown, Holy Cross, and Notre Dame for his talents, none of this surprises you. The only mystery is how good a professional basketball player he might have been if it hadn’t been for that summer league game in 1960.

Raftery was coming off a sensational freshman season following a Parade High School All-America prep career. But right at that moment he was engaging in the practice of the “Irish breakaway.” Some call it basket-hanging.

“I’m chippie-hanging and I’m going for the layup and somebody tried to save the basket,” he said. He and the defender’s legs hooked and

Raftery wound up spinning and hitting the basket support with his lower back at full force.

“I finished the game but I was sore,” he said.

From there, it got worse.

“I hurt it again in pre-season my sophomore year but I played my whole sophomore year with it,” he said. He scored 392 points as the 1960-61 Explorers finished 15-7 but failed to earn a post-season bid.

The following year, tournament hopes were dashed before the first game.

The Explorers went to New York to scrimmage against NYU, then a national power.

“I hurt the back again,” he said. “I went down for a ball and couldn’t come back up. I played 18 minutes that year. Dudey used to start me because they figured if I was loose I might be able to run. But when I came out of the game, I was finished. We were in a tournament at the Garden that year and I remember going up to the Garden and trying to run underneath the stands. No good.”

Raftery underwent surgery for removal of a slipped disc on January 26. Within four months, he was back in uniform, playing against an alumni team at Wister Hall.

And then his senior year, he and Frank Corace led La Salle to a 16-7 season, a bid to the National Invitation Tournament and a first-round game against St. Louis University.

In the final minute, the Explorers had a one-point lead and the ball. It was time for nothing but a layup. But it was then that Raftery took what was called at September’s roast “the worst single shot in the history of college basketball.”

Raftery was head coach at Seton Hall for more than a decade.
It was a shot from the corner, it missed, the Billikins took the rebound and, shortly after that, the game. Raftery finished with 732 career points in barely over two seasons.

Raftery went to the New York Knickerbockers’ camp. He was a 6-foot-3 1/2 guard, trying to make a 1963-64 team that had four good backcourt players, including former La Salle great Tom Gola.

He was a late cut. Was it because the back injury had eroded his skills?

“I don’t know,” he says. “It’s always been a great excuse. People are nice enough to say what could have been, but I feel I was fortunate to get in the last year at La Salle and when I didn’t make the Knicks, I had something else in mind.”

A generation later, his mind would have been on playing in Europe, earning a six- or seven-figure salary and learning a new language. Instead he would up coaching Fairleigh Dickinson Madison where the pay was several figures smaller and the language was foreign only if you weren’t a North Jersey native.

He stayed for five successful years, then smacked into the small college barricade.

“We were spinning our wheels,” he said. “It was not the kind of place to get a better situation from.”

So when Bob Davies, the former Seton Hall star and Blond Bomber for the NBA Rochester Royals, called with an opportunity, Raftery accepted a job in promotion and sales with the Converse Rubber Co.

You played college basketball in those days, you just did it in canvas Cons. And the promotions and sales guy visited the coaches on campus a couple times a year, handing out samples, taking orders. Raftery’s territory was New York and New Jersey. Davis explained the ground rules: you visit Upstate New York campuses in Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo in the fall and the spring. You do Jersey and Metro New York in the winter. You do not, repeat DO NOT, go to Syracuse in the winter.

After selling for a year and a half, Raftery got a call from Richie Regan, who was moving from the head coaching job at Seton Hall to the athletic director’s position. Would Raftery, who had earned his master’s degree at the Hall, be interested?

He was. It began an 11-year relation-
“The La Salle background is something I could never regret. It was a great atmosphere to grow up in.”

ESPN began doing NCAA tournament studio shows in the late 1970s and decided to have a college coach as an on-camera analyst.

“They wanted to make sure to have a coach whose team wouldn’t be busy during March — and that was me,” he said.

Raftery enjoyed the work. And when Gavitt formed the Big East in 1979, Raftery was serious about a career change.

“The hair was turning gray, the jokes were growing old,” he said. “I told Dave, ‘I think I’d love to do the games.’ We had started practice in 1981 when Dave called and said, ‘If you’d like to do the games, I’m not going to do them this year. Call me in two days and let me know.’”

Forty-eight hours later, Raftery had a new profession. It wasn’t full-time at first, so he took a job as a government banker for a North Jersey bank. In 1981, he started working the Nets’ games and college games for TVS/ NBC. The next year he joined both CBS and ESPN as a regular. And last summer he conducted the fifth annual Sharp Bill Raftery Broadcasting Camp, a two-week learning experience for about 50 students at Monclair State. Heart bypass surgery in August 1992 has not slowed him down.

He and Joan still live in the West Orange, N.J., home they bought 21 years ago. Their oldest daughter, Christie, is a Seton Hall grad. Another daughter, Kelly, is at Georgetown. Daughter Susie is a student at Cheshire Academy in Connecticut and son Billy is in seventh grade.

And, though he never made the NCAA tournament in his playing days, he said he often thinks of his old friends and coaches at La Salle, especially Duke Moore, the main reason he picked the school.

He feels that Moore never received the credit he deserved after coming to Philadelphia from Duquesne University in 1959.

“He was a big fish in a small pond in Pittsburgh,” he said. “In Philly he became the reverse. There was Jack Ramsay and (Al) Severance and Harry (Litwack) and Jack McCloskey — and (Jack) Kraft on the way. He never got his due because he was an outsider in a sense.

“I still remember when we went to Pittsburgh for a game and at the airport, you’d have thought the Messiah was coming. In Philly, he was just another guy.”

Like a baseball player from the 1950s, Raftery could brood about the big money that coaches are making these days - salaries, radio and television shows, and sneaker contracts.

He doesn’t.

“It’s part of the process,” he said. “When you leave, the next guy should get more things. My last year, Converse gave us five grand. I gave my assistant $2,500 and I kept $2,500. We thought we could drink Orleib’s and Miller Lite for life on it — and we pretty much did. But we made a pretty good salary for the campus. I think my last year was $40,000 at Seton Hall, which was a ton of money for the times.”

Nor does Raftery have any negative feelings about his life at La Salle. Not even the clip-on bow tie and letter sweater that were required dress for class.

“The La Salle background is something I could never regret,” he said. “We had more Christian Brothers then, which I liked. They were religious, but they were guys who mixed it up with you. It was a great atmosphere to grow up in.

“We had a great cross-section at La Salle. I used to compare it to Seton Hall when I was coaching there — kids from all sections of the city and all economic backgrounds thrown into this healthy pot. And nobody was no better or no worse than the other guy. We were not docile but we were damn close.”

Like a soft kiss, off the glass.

Frank Bilovsky lived across the hall from Bill Raftery during the 1959-60 school year. Bilovsky, now a business writer and columnist for the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle and Times-Union, also thought it was inevitable that Raftery would end up in the NBA.
"Once there was a spot":

CAMELOT
AT
LA SALLE

By James A. Butler, Ph.D., '67

The lives of an American president and an English novelist were entwined in 1963 and La Salle University played a major role.

In the summer of 1941 an American and an Englishman—sharing the same birthday but eight years apart—decided how they would each confront the terrifying international situation. The choices they made that summer in large part shaped their lives. The younger man, an American of Irish descent, enlisted in the Navy and parlayed his becoming a war hero into a political career that reached the heights. The older man (evading the war by decamping from England to Doollistown, County Meath, Ireland) finished reshaping for his century the legends of King Arthur in what he called "an anti-Hitler measure." The men never met, but in a three-week period beginning on that infamous day of November 22, 1963, the legacies of John F. Kennedy and T. H. White entwined forever. On the day Kennedy was assassinated, T.H. White was scheduled to speak at La Salle University but cancelled because of illness; by the time White did speak here on December 16, his work had given a name to an epoch in American history.

Volumes containing some sections of White's classic Arthurian re-telling appeared in the late 1930s and early 1940s. But when White finished his grand epic in the summer of 1941, wartime paper shortages prevented its publication as a whole. Not until early in 1958 did The Once and Future King finally appear: White immediately became famous (and rich, as the book improbably made the best-seller lists).

In that year of 1958 John F. Kennedy himself was—if not yet quite internationally known—well on his way. As a Catholic senator, Kennedy was especially appropriate for La Salle to honor. In February 1958 the La Salle community gathered in the old auditorium (now the university chapel) on the lower level of College Hall to award Kennedy an honorary degree. "We need voters and politicians capable of making the hard and unpopular decisions our times require," he told us. And, writing in La Salle's literary magazine Four Quarters, Kennedy (narrowly elected president in the November the issue appeared) called for new ideals, the ideal especially of a "creative America...peopled by articulate and creative individuals. For those who cannot speak, those who cannot bring forth new ideas and put them before their fellows for judgment and action, cannot lead and they cannot be free."

One of the conundrums of the Arthurian legend, T. H. White wrote to a friend, was Arthur's struggle with himself over whether to
value the Law more than his personal love for his wife and for his friend, once Guenevery and Lancelot become enmeshed in a love affair: "(Arthur) invents Law ... and is prepared to sacrifice Lancelot & Guenevery to the ideal." This central point became the focus of Lerner and Loewe's musical Camelot, based on White's The Once and Future King. Late in 1960 Camelot opened on Broadway starring Julie Andrews, Richard Burton, and Robert Goulet. The reviewer for the New York Post accurately described the new musical: "The wistful tale of an idealistic young king whose dream of bringing a wiser and better world is shattered by mankind's frailty and stubbornness."

Of course, it now seems inevitable that White's idealistic Camelot and Kennedy's aborted presidency should fuse in the American imagination. But that linkage was conscious mythmaking on the part of Kennedy's widow Jacqueline. A week after the assassination, Jacqueline Kennedy telephoned the journalist Theodore H. White (no relation to the novelist T. H. White) to ask him to come to Hyannis Port in Massachusetts: "She wanted me to come," the journalist recalled shortly before his own death, "because she had a message for the American people: She said that when Jack quoted lyrics they were usually classical. But, she said, 'At night, before we go to sleep, Jack liked to play records, and the song he loved most came at the end of the (Camelot) record, and the lines he loved to hear were:"

Don't let it be forgot
That once there was a spot
For one brief shining moment
That was known as Camelot.

'This was Camelot, Teddy,' she told me. 'Let's not forget the time of Camelot.'"

With the presses at LIFE magazine stopped to await the story, the journalist called in from Jacqueline's kitchen words that tied together T. H. White and John Kennedy and made "Camelot" (rightly or wrongly) synonymous with the era.

Shortly after this LIFE magazine issue appeared on December 9, T. H. White recorded in his journal that "one of President Kennedy's favorite discs was the cast recording of Camelot. It is an odd coincidence, because I have been told that when King George VI of England died, my book called The Gosbuck was found on his bed." And on December 16, a bright, cold Monday at the end of what had suddenly become a ghastly semester, T. H. White came to La Salle.

White found a large crowd gathered in the Union Theater; all freshmen had been required to read The Once and Future King the summer before. But the gathering was somber. Some in the audience (including me) had made the journey to Washington for Kennedy's funeral. In the last few weeks something had eroded from college students' lives; Kennedy's call for an idealistic life had for some been damaged, for others snuffed out. Despair had not yet become cynicism, but it was a near thing.

T. H. White looked us over, seemed to catch our mood, and quoted from the wizard Merlyn's words in The Once and Future King:

"The best thing for being sad is to learn something. That is the only thing that never fails. ... You may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics, or know your honour trampled in the sewers of baver minds. There is only one thing for it then—to learn. ... That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tormented by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting."

La Salle students' applause for T. H. White, he himself wrote in his journal, was "stunning" and made his "heart turn over." He did not "want to stop ever ever ever." But death stopped White a month later; the La Salle lecture was his last.

Lettering on a wall in La Salle University's chapel commemorates the place where John F. Kennedy received an honorary degree on February 11, 1958. Sixty yards away, in La Salle's Connelly Library, is preserved an outstanding special collection of T. H. White's work. La Salle University is the only place I know of that honors the American president together with the English novelist whose work (assisted by Lerner and Loewe) gave the signature to those times.

Dr. Butler is professor and chair of the university's English Department and a recipient of a Lindback Award for distinguished teaching.
Dr. Prafulla N. Joglekar, a professor of management at the university, recently spent ten weeks at the Kennedy Space Center, in Florida, as a Summer Faculty Fellow developing a methodology for assessing the costs and benefits of advanced software development projects.

The primary objective of this fellowship program, conducted jointly by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), is the exchange of ideas between NASA employees and the academic community.

Joglekar found that teamwork was the central theme of the management philosophy at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC). Every major decision had to be approved by one or more of the many Change Control Boards (CCB) consisting of experts from appropriate disciplines. In general, these CCBs operated by consensus to ensure that every type of a system (e.g., hydraulics, electrical, thermal protection, etc.) operated efficiently.

Joglekar discovered that the team approach to decision-making was a strength as well as a weakness at KSC.

"The team approach ensures full coordination of the very complex series of operations involved in the preparation and launch of a space shuttle at a safety level as close to 100% as is humanly possible," he explained. "But it also leads to very slow adoption of new ideas and advanced technologies."

The La Salle professor says that he was "amazed" to learn that the computer systems used in the launch command and control systems at KSC had not changed much since the early 1980s. He also found that many shuttle processing tasks were performed by using established, costly, and slow manual methods.

"Before this summer, I equated NASA with the embodiment of cutting-edge of technology," said Joglekar. "As such, I was surprised to find KSC unwilling to deviate from traditions and practices that had clearly worked in the past but that may be inferior and costly compared to the use of some advanced technologies available today."

Joglekar also found that safety has been the "overriding concern" at KSC, especially since the 1986 Challenger disaster. Advancing technology, on the other hand, has a very low priority.

"Furthermore," added Joglekar, "with the uncertainties of support from Washington and the continual reductions in budgets, NASA, as a whole, has been unable to develop a bold new program that would push the frontiers of technology during the 1990s. Perhaps the practices at KSC are symptomatic of our larger national problems."

(continued on page 16)
Talking about his own project, Joglekar observed that the existing practice of cost benefit analysis at KSC had many shortcomings. "CBAs were done primarily to justify decisions already made," he explained. "They were done by software engineers who had no training in the underlying theory and principles. They were based on a single perspective, questionable assumptions, and unsound methods. Consequently, available CBA estimates were highly unreliable and of little value in rational allocation of resources to alternative software development projects."

Joglekar developed a methodology for conducting cost-benefit analyses (CBA) that required a "multi-perspective analysis" that "should be used not merely to justify decisions already made, but to arrive at the right decisions."

The La Salle professor proposed methodology that should enable KSC to "begin a virtuous circle where: Good methodology leads to reliable estimates. Reliable estimates assist rational decision-making. Then, management takes CBAs seriously and allocates adequate resources and appropriate expertise to their conduct. In turn, adequate resources and proper expertise lead to improved methodology and more reliable estimates. And so on."

Dr. Joglekar, who is the Lindback professor of production and operations management at La Salle, said that it was exciting to witness space exploration from the vantage point of an academic consultant.

"It was an honor to be in the company of highly motivated and dedicated scientists and engineers from some 50 different disciplines," he explained. "Although many of these individuals were world class experts in their own disciplines, I was impressed by their warmth, openness, and humility. They realized that although their individual expertise was crucial to KSC's mission, none of them could single-handedly ensure the mission's success."

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La Salle Awarded Federal Grant For Nursing Center

La Salle University has been awarded a five year, $628,120 Special Projects grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Health Professions, Division of Nursing, to expand the services of its Neighborhood Nursing Center.

Dr. Gloria Donnelly, dean of La Salle's School of Nursing, said that the grant will enable the Neighborhood Nursing Center to double its health care services to the university's surrounding urban communities of Germantown, Logan, Olney, and West Oak Lane in Northwest Philadelphia.

Through the grant, La Salle will continue and expand the services of certified nurse practitioners in pediatric nursing and women's health and add a full-time public health nurse who will make home visits. The center will also add a part-time graduate assistant from La Salle's Graduate Nursing Program who will specialize in community health issues.

La Salle's Neighborhood Nursing Center, which is directed by Dr. Patricia Gerrity, RN, was established in 1991. It currently provides services from two sites: at the Germantown YWCA, 5820 Germantown ave., and at 2011 Olney ave. on the western edge of the university's campus.
Dr. William A. Price, an associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, recently returned to the university from a 15 week stint in Portugal as a Fulbright Fellow with a renewed enthusiasm for teaching and a real appreciation of Portuguese people.

"Chemistry, I think, is the same everywhere," explained Price, a synthetic organic chemist who has served on La Salle's faculty since 1985. "I think that I got more culture than I did chemistry over there."

Price, who earned his doctorate at the University of Maryland, did research and lectured at the University of Aveiro, a rapidly-growing institution located on the Portuguese coast about 250 kilometers north of Lisbon. He worked in a Chemistry Department laboratory with five graduate students, primarily doing research on the synthesis of some medically-active compounds.

"We were working on a class of compounds that have some remarkable anti-leukemia activity which is very exciting," said Price. "They wanted me not only to work with the synthesis end of things, but the structure elucidation end of things, identifying the compounds. And I have a fairly decent background in nuclear magnetic resonance."

(Price learned while he was on research leave that the National Science Foundation had awarded an $85,410 grant to La Salle's Chemistry Department for a Fourier Transform NMR Spectrometer.)

Price said that his time in Aveiro, "just a fascinating place," was well-spent, but a little too-short. "Basically it allowed us to establish a tie with the university's Chemistry Department," he explained. "The university is brand new by our standards and it's growth in 19 years is just astounding. It's modern. They have a lot of equipment that we can only dream of."

Aveiro was one of the universities opened in 1974 when Portugal's government went from a dictatorship to a democracy. The European Community has since funnelled considerable financial support to modernize some of their newer member nations. Much of the money has been used for new buildings and facilities at universities such as Aveiro which is expected to expand from 5,000 to 8,000 students within the next few years.

Price's major challenge was the Portuguese language—which he had studied before going abroad—because English was only spoken by professors and graduate students at the university. "It was trial by fire, learn as you go," he recalled. "It was an enormous amount of effort just to go shopping. The first 6-8 weeks, I didn't understand a thing. By the end I was understanding it, but I still couldn't speak it."

Price, who advised graduate students and also learned quite a bit about the NMR machines in Portugal, says that representatives of both nations equally-benefitted from the Fulbright Academic Exchange Program. "I came back with a real renewed enthusiasm for teaching," he said. "The kids sensed my excitement just like they sensed my anticipation last year. They were all anxious to hear about it."
La Salle University honored Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., the first Hispanic female surgeon general of the United States, John Thomas Potts, Jr., M.D., '53, chief of general medical services at Massachusetts General Hospital, and Mabel Harmon Morris, R.N., a public health nurse consultant, during the 1993 Fall Honors Convocation, on October 24 in the Union Ballroom on campus.

La Salle's Brother President Joseph F. Burke, F.S.C., Ph.D., presided over the Convocation, which also recognized 568 La Salle Dean's List students, including 70 from the School of Continuing Studies. In addition, seven faculty members were honored for 25 years of service to the university.

Dr. Novello served as the 14th surgeon general of the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) from March 1990 until 1993. She was the first woman and first Hispanic ever to hold the position. Today she serves as a special representative of UNICEF for Health and Nutrition, for Women, Children and Youth.

As surgeon general, Dr. Novello advised the public on health matters such as smoking, AIDS, diet and nutrition, environmental health hazards, and the importance of immunization and disease prevention. She oversaw the activities of the 6,400 members of the PHS Commissioned Corps.

Born and educated in Puerto Rico, Dr. Novello worked in the private practice of pediatrics and nephrology before she entered the PHS in 1978. She spent much of her career at the National Institute of Health where she served in various positions, rising to the deputy director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development with responsibility for the direction of pediatric AIDS research.

Dr. Novello was sponsored for her honorary doctor of humane letters degree by Dr. Henry De Vincent, a prominent Philadelphia orthopedic surgeon and a member of La Salle's Board of Trustees.
Dr. Potts has had a distinguished medical career as an administrator, teacher, physician, and researcher. In addition to his work at Massachusetts General, the University of Pennsylvania Medical School graduate also serves as professor of medicine and chairman of the executive committee on minority faculty development at Harvard University Medical School. He has done extensive research on endocrinology and has published hundreds of reports in various medical journals.

Dr. Potts has received numerous awards and honors including the Distinguished Graduate Award from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, the Fred Konrad Koch Award from the Endocrine Society, and the William F. Neumann Award from the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research.

"Dr. Potts's profound accomplishments have been recognized by the worldwide medical community," said his sponsor for an honorary doctor of science degree, Brother Thomas McPhillips, F.S.C., Ph.D., associate professor of biology at La Salle. "His work has provided contributions to our understanding and treatment of conditions such as hyperparathyroidism, osteoporosis, Paget’s disease, and certain forms of malignancies."

Morris is an independent Public Health Nurse Consultant to the U.S. Public Health Service on special projects. An advocate for the elderly on health care and health insurance problems, she joined the Nursing Department faculty at La Salle in 1984 to "end her career as a teacher in a city that she loved and in a university committed to community."

Morris was sponsored for her honorary doctor of humane letters degree by Gloria Donnelly, R.N., Ph.D., dean of La Salle's School of Nursing, who recalled how she would prod her colleagues at La Salle to broaden their perspective of public health.

"Working with Mabel meant never saying, 'I can't, I give up,' or 'I don't have the time,'" said Dr. Donnelly. "And, she was patient with us, coaching, prodding, getting us to believe that we could risk rejection, learn from experience, and eventually succeed which, I suppose, has been her life pattern. She continues to contribute time, advice, and resources to La Salle University on many levels. Most of all, she is committed to improving the health and well-being of the residents of the community."

During more than a quarter of a century in the public health care field, Morris served in numerous positions including director of the Division of Health Resources Development. In this position she was responsible for planning and directing PHS regional health programs and activities concerned with promoting and developing quality health resources in Region III. She has also served as the director of the Office of Management, Planning and Program Integration at PHS.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University, she was elected vice president of the American Public Health Association in 1989.

Dr. Beth Paulin (left), director of La Salle’s Women’s Studies Program, and Sister Mary Scullion, R.S.M., founder and director of Philadelphia’s Project HOME, discuss the newest edition of Gender Lines, a bi-annual publication of the Women's Studies Program highlighting the writing talents of the university's undergraduate population. Sister Scullion was the keynote speaker at a recent campus reception celebrating the publication of Volume 6 of Gender Lines.
Some 600 high school students from Pennsylvania and New Jersey attended day-long workshops sponsored by La Salle University's School of Business Administration, Communication, and Geology Departments on October 2 on campus.

The School of Business Administration presented workshops in College Hall on such topics as “Making Your $100,000 Grow: A Stock Market Game,” “FRODS and DORFS: Solving a Business Problem,” “Tower of Team Power: An Exercise in Leadership and Communication,” and “Taste Testing”: a comparison of brand-name baked goods conducted by Tasty Baking Company officials. The sessions were designed to show that studying business in college can be fun.

George Latella, marketing manager of Tasty Baking Company, offered the concluding remarks at the afternoon session, “Being a Successful Businessperson in the 21st Century.”

The Communication Workshop was held in Olney Hall, the College Hall Chapel, and St. Cassian Hall in the North Dorm complex. It included sessions in TV production and writing, journalism, press conferences, and panel discussions.

La Salle University's Communication Awards to distinguished graduates of the program were presented at a session in Olney Hall 100. This year's recipients were Ken Adelberger, '82, PRISM-TV sports producer and anchor; Kevin G. Lowery, '86, director of financial communications, Campbell Soup Co.; Joseph F. Nardelli, '78, a New York-based film producer; and Dr. Wendy Samter, '81, a communications professor at the University of Delaware.

The Environmental Science workshop featured laboratory sessions in the Holroyd Hall Science Building and Olney Hall Classroom Building on such topics as radiation, water pollution, and stream pollution. The Academy of Natural Sciences presented an “Endangered Species” demonstration in the Dan Rodden Theatre and the Schuylkill Valley Nature Center offered tours of its “Eco-Van.”
La Salle University has been awarded a pair of National Science Foundation grants totaling $115,529 to obtain state-of-the-art equipment for student research and study in science and mathematics courses.

One grant for $85,410 will enable the university to obtain funding for a Fourier Transform Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer (FT-NMR). This will be used for instruction in various organic, advanced inorganic, and physical chemistry courses and will also help upgrade laboratories in five mathematics and science courses.

A $30,119 grant will be used to develop modular laser instrumentation for use in upper division chemistry courses and student research. This new equipment will advance knowledge of modern spectroscopy and demonstrate the applications of lasers in chemistry.

In addition to adding new dimensions to existing student-faculty research, the additional equipment will improve preparation for graduate schools and careers in industry.

La Salle officials have announced a curricular and financial commitment to strengthen its mathematics and science programs as part of the university’s current $100 million capital gifts campaign.
La Salle University marked two decades of honoring community leaders at the 20th Annual Community Service Awards Dinner on October 15 in the Union Ballroom on campus.

Since 1973, La Salle has recognized area neighborhood leaders for their commitment to improving the communities in which they live. Particularly honored are persons who have given unselfishly of themselves to make their neighborhood and city a more just and safe place to live.

All of this year’s recipients are from the Northwest Philadelphia area. They include: Jacqueline Denby, Bridget Jamison, John and Anna Shirley, and La Salle University student Vincent Guy, from Olney; Susan Simon, Hector Rivera, Ph.D., Gerry Sizemore, and Greg Wicks, representing the Wadsworth Concerned Neighbors from Mount Airy, and Thanh Pham from Logan.

Gene Lothery, vice president and general manager of WCAU TV10, was keynote speaker at the dinner sponsored by La Salle’s Urban Studies and Community Services Center. All proceeds benefit the Urban Center’s Adult Learning Project, which reaches over 250 adults annually.

Founded in 1967, the overall purpose of La Salle’s Urban Studies Center is to assist in the physical, social, cultural and economic improvement of nearby neighborhoods. The Center also aims to improve interracial understanding and cooperation between La Salle and its neighbors.

La Salle Again Ranked Among Best Regional Universities in U.S. News & World Report Survey

La Salle University has again been ranked by U.S. News and World Report among the best colleges and universities in the northeast region of the United States.

La Salle, the only Philadelphia college to make the list, was ranked 10th among regional universities in the north in the seventh annual America’s Best Colleges special report. Last year, La Salle was 12th on the list.

A total of 1,371 four-year schools were included in the study including 559 institutions in La Salle’s category. Only 15 schools were ranked in each of four geographic regions. The colleges were ranked according to a system that combined statistical data with the results of an exclusive U.S. News survey of academic reputations among 2,655 college presidents, deans, and admissions directors.

The overall rankings for the 559 institutions were based upon five criteria (La Salle’s ranking is in parenthesis): academic reputation (11), student selectivity (29), faculty resources (16), financial resources (58), and graduation rate (18).

La Salle’s Brother President Joseph F. Burke, F.S.C., Ph.D., said that the university’s high ranking in U.S. News & World Report is another indication of an “increasing awareness” of La Salle’s status as a major regional institution.

“This ranking again confirms what our alumni and students have known for some time,” Brother Burke added, “that La Salle is a very fine, solid institution where teaching and learning are the real priorities. It’s nice to know that other people are beginning to recognize these qualities.”
One of the most prominent 19th century classical scholars got his start at La Salle more than 100 years ago. Today he is nearly forgotten.

By Michael J. Kerlin, Ph.D., ’57

Although it is fairly well-known that La Salle was chartered in 1863, it is still pretty much a secret that one of the college’s first faculty members, who began teaching at the tender age of 15, eventually became recognized among the most eminent Catholic intellectuals in late 19th century America.

The bright young Christian Brother with the religious name of Azarias of the Cross was believed to be among the first to work in one of the three basement classrooms at St. Michael’s School in North Philadelphia. He remained at La Salle for less than three years. By 1866 he was teaching at Manhattan College in New York and soon his academic horizons broadened from mathematics to philosophy and literature. He spent time as a college president; his books and scholarly articles were acclaimed internationally, and he was in great demand as a speaker before his untimely death a little more than 100 years ago, on August 20, 1893.
Brother Azarias entered this life as Patrick Francis Mullany on June 29, 1817, in Tipperary, Ireland, when much of the country was caught in the midst of a potato famine which has been described as "one of the great natural disasters in history." Between 1847 and 1854, more than a million Irish fled to the United States to escape starvation and death. The Mullany parents made their journey in 1851, settling on a farm in Deerfield, New York. By 1858, they had the resources to have Patrick join them. Irish Catholics did not find the public schools of the day hospitable, and after a brief stay he and his brother, Francis, were off to a school conducted by the Brothers of the Christian Schools in Utica.

The Brothers had a profound influence on precocious Patrick Mullany, and on his 15th birthday he took their habit as Brother Azarias. After a novitiate of less than a year, he was teaching the sixth class in a New York school. By April 1863 he was at St. Michael's assigned to the "lower classes." The dates are astounding from our vantage point. Obviously the superiors and the parents considered a 15-year-old competent to teach an elementary school class. Brother Azarias may even have been covering the college classes of the nascent La Salle University. We have only the information that he spent much of his time on the roof studying the stars with a telescope.

The stay at Manhattan College lasted a little more than two months after which Brother Azarias received another transfer, this time to Rock Hill College in Ellicott City, Maryland, some eight miles from the present city limits of Baltimore. Still not yet 20, he was now a professor of mathematics with responsibilities for astronomy, analytical mechanics, analytical geometry and calculus. One imagines the college president handing him the books and telling him to dive into a program of self-education. Again the details are sparse. There is nothing about the books he read or his reactions to the Civil War just over. That he remained interested in astronomy we learn from an 1869 letter to his parents about observing an eclipse through the telescopes at the U.S. Naval Observatory. What he did not have was a single day as a college or university student in the present-day sense.

Eventually Brother Azarias abandoned the teaching of mathematics and science for philosophy and letters. His teaching in these areas led to the publication of some informal essays and to the suggestion from a colleague that he gather them together in one volume. The result was in 1874 a book with the grand title An Essay Contributing to a Philosophy of Literature. The scope is immense. He defines literature; he discusses its relationship to language and architecture; he traces the various influence producing the literature of the west; he enters debates about positivism, evolutionism, Hegelianism, pessimism; he offers theories of literary period, of beauty, of criticism. All in about 200 pages and with citations in English, Greek, Latin, French, Spanish, Italian and German. At the age of 27 he had an encyclopedic range—a fact noted sympathetically and unsympathetically by the critics. There were, however, consistent themes governed by postulates about God, revelation and destiny and by the reading of philosophers like Friedrich Schlegel.

In 1877, illness caused Brother Azarias to leave Rock Hill for France and England, where he made use of the great libraries and visited scholars like John Henry Newman. His research allowed him to produce The Development of English Literature (1879), a study which endured long as a basic text for anyone interested in the period before Chaucer. Then in 1879, he was back again at Rock Hill College, this time as President. The duties of administration did not
keep him from the intellectual life. He made himself known at the new Jesuit Woodstock College, and at the Johns Hopkins University, and at the Jesuit Woodstock College, and he became a regular at the cultural summer schools, religious and secular, which were a notable phenomenon of the epoch. His themes were philosophical, literary, historical, pedagogical with a certain amount of pro-Catholic and pro-Celtic ax-grinding recurrent. Yet a book like *Aristotle and the Christian Church* (1888) presented first before a secular audience is temperate as well as clear and informative. It merits attention even today. To some extent, this long essay represented an attempt to fit within the new Thomistic movement in the Catholic Church, but its author was never consistently Thomist in his inclinations.

After concluding his presidency in 1887, Brother Azarias journeyed again to Europe for rest and study, coming back in 1889 to the La Salle Institute in New York. There he found a special friend in the chaplain Father John Talbot Smith, who was later to produce a rambling, eulogist biography, *Brother Azarias: The Story of an American Monk* (1897). Aside from continuing on the summer lecture circuit, he compiled his talks and essays as *Books and Reading* (1889) and *Phases of Thought and Criticism* (1893). Many of these pieces had already appeared in journals like *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The American Catholic Quarterly*, and *The Catholic World*. Most are commentaries on particular authors and books; and, although he tends to talk around texts rather than to display them, he shows himself a master of *The Imitation of Christ*, *The Divine Comedy*, and *In Memoriam*. In an altogether different vein, he put together a series of devotional essays on Mary, the mother of Jesus.

1893 promised to be a year of major intellectual engagement for Brother Azarias. He had speaking invitations for the summer school at New London and for a national Catholic lay congress in Chicago. While in Chicago, he was to address the Parliament of Religions concurrent with the Columbian Exposition. But first there was the summer school at Plattsburg on Lake Champlain, where he would lecture on the history of education. During his final presentation, he fell ill and died within two weeks of pneumonia. The loss was felt throughout the country. One headline read "Brother Azarias, Philosopher, dies at Plattsburg." At the funeral in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, City, the Reverend Joseph McMahon made the words of the angel in Tobia, "I am Azarias, help of God," the text; and he spoke of the great personal, pedagogical and literary presence which had been taken away.

On May 14, 1894, educational and religious leaders from around the country gathered at St. John's College in Washington to memorialize him. Many others sent telegrams. The nature of the comments may be captured by the words of P.B. Tarro, the pastor of St. Paul's Church, Ellicott City: "Brother Azarias is entitled to take rank with the best intellects of the age. He will not be shrouded in oblivion; he will not wholly die." Within the decade, much of his work appeared in the volumes *Essays Philosophical*, *Essays Educational*, and *Essays Miscellaneous*, and the prediction seemed born out.

My own studies make me wonder particularly how Brother Azarias would have fared in some of the controversies which were just around the corner at his early death. Surely this classical scholar and exponent of classical education would have faced trouble in the controversy among the Christian Brothers over the teaching of Latin in their American colleges. It was a controversy which led some of the most eminent Latinists among his confreres to religiously enforced exile from the United States by 1900. This Irish-born advocate of the American way would also have been caught in the middle of the larger church conflicts over what European ecclesiastics were condemning as Americanism around the same time. Finally a leading intellectual figure could not have stayed out of the modernist crisis which came to a head in the church between 1902 and 1907. We can only guess where he would have come down on issues about religious philosophy and biblical criticism. In any event, Father Tarro was mistaken in the long run about the longevity of literary fame.

Brother Azarias is now largely forgotten except by a handful of people of a quirky education similar to my own. It is a pity since the breadth of his interests and the clarity of his writing make reading him still valuable. Indeed some contemporary philosophers and literary critics might profitably use him as a model in their work.

Dr. Kerlin is professor and chairman of the university's Philosophy Department. He was awarded a prestigious Lindback Award for distinguished teaching in 1986.
in New Jersey, received the Partners in Change Award for outstanding efforts to support displaced homemakers and mature women in the community by the Women’s Opportunity Center, at the YMCA in Mount Laurel, N.J.


'M74 MARRIAGE: Paul J. Foley to Cheryl Shipman.

'M78 William A. Donnelly, Jr., has retired from the U.S. Postal Service after 40 years of service. He was the regional director-human resources for the Eastern Region of the U.S.

'M79 Joseph P. Conroy has been named director of investment programs at Franciscan Health System, in Aston, Pa. FHS owns and operates acute care hospitals, nursing homes, and related health care facilities in a number of states.

'M80 Joyce Lindinger Kanaskie was named field hockey assistant at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She captained the field hockey team for two years at La Salle.


'M83 MARRIAGE: Mark Steven Bader to Melissa Louise Leatherman. BIRTH: to James M. Boligitz, Jr., C.P.A., and his wife, Tina, a daughter, Katherine Anne.

'M84 Cecilia Beth Dolan earned an executive master’s degree in business administration from Columbia University Graduate School. Dolan is marketing manager for Money magazine, in New York. BIRTH: to Alice Seiberlich Gaibler, and her husband, Richard C. Gaibler, D.O., ’83, their first son, Richard Joseph.

'M85 MARRIAGE: Daniel A. Guerriero, Jr. to Mary Griffin. BIRTHS: to Susan Johannesen Costenbader and her husband, Jay James Costenbader, ’83. a son, Andrew James; to Daniel J. McCloskey and his wife, Linda, a son, Matthew Eugene.

'M86 John Metz is a key account executive with ADP Dealer Services Division, a Fortune 200 firm based in Chicago, Illinois. He resides in Frederick, Maryland. BIRTH: to John Metz and his wife, Anne, a daughter, Brenna Nicole.

'M87 Allison Hudson Donohoe received the Player of the Year Award in the prestigious Priscilla Abruzzo Memorial NCAA Women’s Summer Basketball League, in Philadelphia. Donohoe led her team to a regular season-best 9-1 record.


'SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES

'48 Henry G. Gruber has been elected to the Board of Directors of Chesapeake Bank and Trust Co., Inc., and its parent company, Chesapeake Bancorp, in Maryland.

'49 Frank Scully, after holding positions with The Hertz Corporation, Funk & Wagnalls, and the American Management Associations in New York City, is back in the Philadelphia area. He is operating a data processing company, Scully Data, Inc., in Newtown (Bucks County), and recently won an award for one of his paintings at the Phillips Mill Competition in New Hope, Pa.

'S4 Geoffrey B. Kelly, S.T.D., professor of systematic theology at La Salle University, was awarded a Poor Richard Club Pro Bono Award as an “Outstanding American Who Has Made a Difference,” at a dinner in his honor on Sept. 30 at Williamson’s Restaurant, in Horsham, Pa.

'S5 Dr. Anthony A. Di Primio is heard twice weekly on his radio program “Pursuit of Personal Excellence” on WJNC-AM 1360, in Washington Township, N.J.

'Bernard J. Freitag was elected to his fourth three-year term on the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania Public School Employes’ Retirement System
Who Do You Know?

Who do you know who should receive information about attending La Salle University? A son or daughter? Nephew or niece? Neighbor? Friend? Colleague?

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alumni notes

Brother President Joseph F. Burke (center) and Maria Tucker Gusick (second from left), president of the Alumni Association, congratulate the new inductees in the Alumni Hall of Athletes who were honored at a dinner on Oct. 8. They are Vincent Kelly (left), 78, soccer; Kathleen Smith Prindible, '82, diving, and William Duryee, '66, track.

Freitag and was named chairman for the fifth consecutive year. He was also elected president of the German Society of Pennsylvania.

'57 Col. Charles A. Beitz, Jr., became chair of the Department of Business and Economics at Mount Saint Mary's (Md.). Harry L. Froehlich has retired from the Department of the Army as a pharmacologist after 34 years. He will continue as a consultant for the Maryland Poison Control Center and Maryland Emergency Medical Systems, Inc.

'58 Pascal J. LaRuffa, M.D., F.S.A.M., was appointed medical director of the Lawrenceville School, in Lawrenceville, N.J.

'63 George H. Benz, M.D., is chairman of surgery for Forbes Health System, in Monroeville, Pa. William A. Garrigle, Esq., of Garrigle and Palm, a law firm in New Jersey, received the Partners in Change Award for outstanding efforts to support displaced homemakers and mature women in the community by the Women's Opportunity Center, at the YMCA in Mount Laurel, N.J.

'64 John Manear chaired the National Council Teachers of English Convention. He teaches at Seton-La Salle High School in Pittsburgh and is an adjunct professor at the University of Pittsburgh and the Community College of Allegheny County.

Dr. Walter M. Mathews, university dean of academic affairs at Long Island University, was recently awarded his fourth Fulbright Award to study the culture and higher education systems in Japan and Korea. His last three Fulbright Awards

Mathews brought him to Turkey, Sri Lanka, and Costa Rica.

Rev. Anthony A. Wojcinski has been appointed rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral, in Pueblo, Colorado.

'66 W. Richard Bukata, M.D., medical director of the San Gabriel (Calif.) Valley Medical Center Emergency Department, was chosen to receive the "Outstanding Contribution in Education Award" from the 16,000 member American College of Emergency Physicians for 1993. He publishes literature and also teaches continuing education courses for emergency physicians.

'68 Edward W. O'Brien, head basketball coach at Bishop Verot High School, in Fort Myers, Fla., was named the 1992-93 Fort Myers News-Press "2-A Coach of the Year" for boys basketball.

'69 John M. Daly, M.D., the chief of the University of Pennsylvania's Division of Surgical Oncology, has accepted the Lewis Atterbury Simson Chair and the chair of the Department of Surgery at Cornell University Medical College and surgeon-in-chief at New York Hospital.

'70 Jeffrey S. Rossett, M.D., completed his first term as chairman of family practice at Philadelphia's Nazareth Hospital.

'75 Edward J. Mesunas is director of advertising and public relations at Penn Fishing Tackle Manufacturing Co., in Philadelphia.
alumni notes

Nicholas J. Lisi, Esq. (left), chairman of the Alumni Downtown Club, and Brother President Joseph F. Burke (right) chat with Maj. Gen. William F. Burns, '54 (USA-Ret), the former director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, who was featured speaker at the group's first luncheon of the year at Philadelphia's Barclay Hotel on Oct. 20.

BIRTH: to Edward J. Mesunas and his wife, Beverly, a son, Thomas Edward.

'77 Barbara Swinand Boardsley received a master of science degree in educational technology from Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science. Rev. David J. Klein has been appointed the Catholic chaplain at Cooper Hospital, in Camden, N.J.

'79 Joseph J. Cicala, M.S., who is pursuing his Ph.D. in higher education administration at New York University, is an assistant professor/counselor at Suffolk (N.Y.) Community College. Cicala is also listed in the 1993 Who's Who in the East and Who's Who in American Education. He is also chair-elect of the American College Personnel Association's Career Development Commission.

MARRIAGE: Joseph Barron to Virginia Barishk, '60.

'80 MARRIAGE: Virginia Barishk to Joseph Barron, '79.

'81 James P. Craig is district manager for United Refrigeration Inc., in Philadelphia.

'82 Patrick H. Donohoe is teaching in the Bethlehem (Pa.) School District instructing ninth and tenth grade English.

'83 BIRTH: to Jay James Costenbader and his wife, Susan Johannesen Costenbader, '85, a son, Andrew James; to Richard C. Gaibler, D.O., and his wife, Alice Seiberlich Gaibler, '84, their first son, Richard Joseph.

'85 U.S. Army Captain Matthew Gaworski, D.D.S., is a military dentist at Camp Campbell, in Kentucky. Joseph M. Mazurek is director of dietary services at Hamilton Continuing Care Center, in Hamilton, N.J., after serving for 6 years with ARA Services, Inc.

MARRIAGE: Maureen Elizabeth Ferguson to John P. Goodwin, III.

'86 Susan M. Boltz completed a series of summer courses in Europe on topics of comparative law at the University of Florence School of Law, the University of Strasbourg School of Law, and the University of Vienna School of Law. The programs included visiting various institutions of the European Community in Italy, Germany, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Austria and Hungary. She plans to pursue a career in health law after graduation in 1994 from Dickinson School of Law, in Carlisle, Pa.

Marybeth Senn Burton received a master's degree in library science from Rutgers State University of New Jersey. She is a senior biological information scientist at Schering-Plough Research Institute, in Kenilworth, N.J. John R. Ferraro is working in the circulation department of The Daily Record newspaper, in Parsippany, N.J.

MARRIAGE: Gregg R. Melinson to Pamela Sullivan.

'87 Rebecca A. Efroymson completed her Ph.D. in environmental toxicology at Cornell University. She is now working in Washington as a "Diplomacy Fellow" for the U.S. Agency for International Development, sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Joseph V. Frangipane received a doctor of philosophy degree in microbiology and immunology from the Hahnemann University Graduate School. U.S. Army Capt. Mark Gaworski is stationed in Somalia with Operation Restore Hope.

Thomas J. Gorman is an employee benefits paralegal at the law firm of Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, in Philadelphia. G. Russell Reiss, III, received a doctor of medicine degree from the Hahnemann University School of Medicine. He will complete a surgery residency at Hahnemann.

MARRIAGE: Thomas J. Gorman to Rhonda S. Bosela.

'88 David Paiko completed a four year, $10 million pesticide, solvent soil and ground water investigation and cleanup while working for Environmental Resources Management, Inc., in Ewing, N.J. Paiko was also promoted to project manager, the youngest in ERM's history.

Richard D. Quattrone, M.D., has graduated from a family practice internship at the Naval Hospital, Camp Pendleton, in San Diego, Calif. He plans to relocate to Pensacola, Fla., to work as a naval flight surgeon.

Sona Y. Wilmoth is head softball coach at West Chester (Pa.) University.

MARRIAGES: Jill Cohen, D.O. to Robert M. Slusky, '88; Colleen O'Donnell to John Fritsch.

'89 Kelly Greenberg is an assistant basketball coach at the College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass. Claudia J. Petacco received a doctor of medicine degree from Hahnemann University School of Medicine. She will complete a residency in internal medicine at the Medical Center of Delaware, in Newark.

'90 Gail P. Beatty is an assistant basketball coach at the United States Naval Academy, in Annapolis, Md. Joseph J. Irwin is attending the University of Pennsylvania Medical School.
Lori K. McLaughlin graduated from Boston College Law School and will be working at the law firm of Drinker, Biddle and Reath, in Philadelphia. Kathleen Markee Sasser is teaching kindergarten to 5th grade students at the Baker (Fla.) Elementary School.

MARRIAGE: Joseph J. Irwin to Lori K. McLaughlin, '90.

BIRTH: to Kathleen Markee Sasser and her husband, Marc, a son, Kevin Darren.

'91

Angelo Joseph Patane received the degree of Juris Doctor from Ohio Northern University.

'92

Jennifer A. Ask is attending the University of Maine for a master's degree in interpersonal communication. Denise J. Graf is working as a television production coordinator for Producers Management, Inc., in King of Prussia, Pa.

'93

MARRIAGE: Angelo Anthony Solorio to Lori Elizabeth Armstrong.

SCHOOL OF NURSING
B.S.N.

'85

BIRTH: to Cathleen Collins Kager and her husband, Scott, their second daughter, Elizabeth.

MASTER'S IN NURSING

'92

Kellyn O'Donnell Bertolazzi is center nurse manager at Maternal Fetal Diagnostic Services, in King of Prussia, Pa.

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Douglas

'90

June C. Douglas was named manager of Philadelphia Electric Company's (PECO) Cromby Generating Station, in Phoenixville, Pa. She is the first woman in the company's history to direct the operations of a power plant. Cheryl Reeve ('88 B.A.) is an assistant basketball coach at George Washington University, in Washington, D.C.

Reunion Planned for “La Salle in Europe” Participants

Alumni of the “La Salle in Europe” program are organizing a reunion for the Friday of Reunion Weekend, May 20, 1994.

If you studied in Fribourg or Madrid, please mark your calendar now. If you would like to help the planning and promotion of the event, call the Alumni Office at (215) 951-1535.
The Alumni Law Society elected these officers under newly-adopted by-laws at a campus reception on Sept. 30 (from right to left): Steven J. Madonna, Esq., '64, president; Thomas J. Feerick, Esq., '71, secretary; Lisa M. Bellino, Esq., '86, vice president, and Hon. Francis P. Congrove, '56, treasurer.

CHICAGO area alumni met at the Stouffer Hotel in Oak Brook, Ill., on September 13 and elected officers: Timothy M. O'Connor, '81, chairman; Frank V. Possinger, '69, vice chairman; Sheila Roche Kligge, '83, secretary-treasurer, and Joseph A. Samulenas, '84, admissions coordinator.

They also decided to expand their horizons and invite the participation of La Salle alumni in nearby Wisconsin (e.g. Milwaukee and Madison) and those in northwestern Indiana. With this in mind, they opted to change their name to the LAKE MICHIGAN Alumni Club of La Salle University. Plans are being made for visits by the Explorer basketball team to the University of Illinois on December 1 and to conference rival Loyola on January 22.

The Steering Committee of the CENTRAL INDIANA Club, under the Chairmanship of Roger Marchetti, '80, met on September 14 at the Hillcrest Country Club, in Indianapolis, and made plans for activities in conjunction with the La Salle-Butler game on February 12, and for the MCC Tournament there in March.

The HEALTH PROFESSIONS Alumni Association took their second Fall bus trip to New York to see a matinee of the award winning musical TOMMY at the St. James Theatre on November 6. They then had dinner at the Tavern on the Green before returning to campus that evening.

Brother Joseph Burke, F.S.C., Ph.D., attended an alumni reception in NEW YORK CITY on November 16 at the Swiss Bank Tower, 10 East 50th Street. Peter C. McCormick, '67, senior vice president and chief operating officer of the Swiss Bank Corporation, hosted the event.

Some of our alumni in TEXAS will have an opportunity to meet Brother President Burke at the University of St. Thomas, in Houston, on January 7 when Lee J. Williams, Ph.D., '64, who is academic vice president there, will welcome La Salle grads, their spouses and friends to a dinner on campus.

—Jim Mc Donald
New Director of Annual Fund and Assistant Director Named to Development Office Staff

Two new appointments have been made to the university's Development Department staff, it was announced by Dr. Fred Foley, Jr., vice president for development.

John J. Meko, Jr., '90, has been named director of the annual fund, thus becoming the first layman in La Salle's history to hold that position. He succeeds Brother Frank Danielski, F.S.C., '71, who is now assistant principal for student affairs at La Salle College High School, in Wyndmoor, Pa.

As director of the annual fund, Meko will plan and direct the fund-raising program for the Alumni Annual Fund and the senior gift programs.

Meko, a resident of Norristown, Pa., joined the university's development staff in 1990 as a staff research associate. In 1991, he was promoted to assistant director of the annual fund.

Andrew H. Jaffee, who has been associate director of operations at Philadelphia's Development Center since 1991, has been appointed assistant director of development. He will assist with the alumni and parents' fund-raising programs with an emphasis on personal solicitation.

Jaffee, a native of New York City, is a 1988 economics graduate of Reed College, in Portland, Ore. At the Philadelphia Development Center he was responsible for developing and managing annual fund, capital campaign, and membership acquisition programs.

He is married to Maribeth Clark, a doctoral candidate at the University of Pennsylvania.
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