

College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University

DigitalCommons@CSB/SJU

---

Archives History Lessons

Archives

---

2015

## Bennie Identity Controversy

Peggy L. Roske

College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University, proske@csbsju.edu

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/archives\\_history\\_lessons](https://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/archives_history_lessons)

---

### Recommended Citation

Roske, Peggy L., "Bennie Identity Controversy" (2015). *Archives History Lessons*. 12.

[https://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/archives\\_history\\_lessons/12](https://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/archives_history_lessons/12)

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@CSB/SJU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Archives History Lessons by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@CSB/SJU. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@csbsju.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@csbsju.edu).

**THE RECORD**  
THE COLLEGE OF ST. BENEDICT/ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

SINCE 1888      csbsjurecord.com      JAN. 23, 2015

The concept of a "Bennie Identity" campaign was mentioned in the regular Student Senate column in *The Record*

**SBS UPDATE**

At Wednesday's senate meeting, Nicole Bauer, public relations representative introduced a campaign entitled "Bennie Identity" that hopes to establish a difference between St. Ben's and St. John's and praise what it means to be a Bennie. As a part of this campaign, the senate will be issuing bi-weekly videos of current Bennies who talk about their love of the school, why they chose it and their beliefs on the Bennie Identity.

p.2

2015-01-23, The Record p. 2

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/42651>



In the next issue, the responses were fervent *and numerous*

PAGE 7 • THE RECORD

csbjurecord.com • FEB. 13, 2015

## OPINION

OPINION EDITOR  
Bridget Barry • bnbarry@csbsju.edu

# Bennie identity necessary



**CSB and SJU  
partnership should  
recognize and celebrate  
Bennie identity**

By **Lauren Schoenbauer**  
lschoenbauer@csbsju.edu

Last week, Roger Lindmark (SJU '74) expressed his feelings about CSB Senate's "Bennie Identity" campaign, implying that CSB would be nothing without SJU. "CSB should count its blessings that SJU exists and saved its bacon over the last 50 years," Lindmark said.

Lindmark established that he is an SJU alum who knows the school's history. He explains how SJU decided against becoming coed in the 1960s so that CSB would not lose its accreditation. I am a CSB student who also knows our history. Yes, St. John's probably did save St. Ben's with this decision. However, SJU most likely wasn't supporting CSB solely out of charity. It was much cheaper to encourage St. Ben's existence rather than construct new buildings in Collegeville. While St. John's made a smart decision by not becoming coed, both schools benefited from this decision.

I am able to look at this situation in a different light. As a current CSB student, I use this school as a way to define myself. I am a Bennie, which means that I am an empowered woman in today's world; that I am courageous, strong and bold. I look at my fellow Johnnie classmates with respect, because I know that they are strong and educated people in

society, just like me. Being able to call oneself a "Bennie" or "Johnnie" is a source of pride. Both titles hold strong reputations because of the community that is created on these campuses.

We have two schools that work together as a team to create this inspiring place that so many people call home. Being part of a team means that each member helps to support others in times of need.

**Lauren Schoenbauer**  
CSB Junior

CSB and SJU have a unique gift where each contributes its own strengths to make one incredible establishment.

We have two schools that work together as a team to create this inspiring place that so many

people call home. Being part of a team means that each member helps to support the others in times of need. St. John's clearly understood this idea in the 1960s when deciding whether to become coed or not.

That being said, I was extremely surprised to hear a Johnnie alum disapprove of the notion to create a stronger Bennie identity. I would like to encourage Lindmark to remember his Benedictine Values that seem to have left his mind after being so lovingly ingrained in our heads since the day we stepped foot on campus.

I would especially like to highlight "respect for persons" and "common good." Having respect for another person includes the concept that all people deserve the right to fully exercise their autonomy. The common good of CSB/SJU's past, present and future students will positively benefit from a stronger Bennie Identity because we need people with different talents, different mindsets and different identities

in order to be the best that we can be. Considering his own "Johnnie Identity," Lindmark should be supporting the empowerment of his sister school. Encouraging the Bennie Identity campaign will allow CSB/SJU to thrive.

Some might argue that SJU saved CSB at a critical moment in history, but it is not 1960 anymore. Like in the past, St. Ben's and St. John's work as a team to make the other better. In 2015, CSB and SJU both have their feet on the ground and stand hand in hand. Together they are shaping the men and women of today and tomorrow. CSB/SJU can respectfully look at its affiliated history and know that the decision made in the past helped create the great

most unenviable.  
Lindmark should apply the Chinese proverb: "Only when all contribute their firewood can they build a strong fire."

—This is the opinion of Lauren Schoenbauer, a CSB junior

2015-02-13, The Record, p.7

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/42711>

# OPINION

Dear Editor,

We are writing in response to a letter in the Feb. 6 edition of The Record. Its writer, Roger Lindmark, an SJU graduate, insinuated that the existence of the College of St. Benedict depended solely on the good will of St. John's University, and further suggested that establishing an identity as a Bennie is unnecessary and undesirable. The letter contained several factual inaccuracies surrounding the history of our academic institutions, and the partnership between them.

The College of St. Benedict has existed for more than 100 years, more than half of those entirely separate from St. John's.

To ignore that time would be doing a gross injustice to the monastic sisters, students and faculty of the early days of the college. Furthermore, we would like to address the assumptions it made about the relationship be-

tween Bennies and Johnnies. We as Bennies and Johnnies honor our rich heritages and traditions as separate Benedictine Institutions, and our common identities as part of the CSB and SJU family. We recognize our differences and celebrate our commonalities. As a Bennie, I firmly reject the notion that my identity is in any way dependent (or in debt to) the continued existence of SJU. The Bennies and Johnnies of today are certainly in a different position than when the schools first began, and Mr. Lindmark's refusal to acknowledge the existence of a Bennie identity is insulting and incorrect. It absolutely exists, is absolutely necessary and is absolutely here to stay.

Sincerely,  
Anne Gleich and Matt Rengo  
CSB Sophomore and  
SJU Sophomore

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in response to "Bennie identity is unnecessary due to institutional history." I know many Bennies on campus did not appreciate this letter. Mr. Lindmark states "CSB would not exist today if it weren't for SJU." I find this hard to believe. He argues that if SJU were to close today CSB would have to as well.

When I look at the number of all-men's colleges (four including SJU) compared to all women's colleges (47 including CSB) I see that all-women's college seem to be doing better than all-men's colleges. With these numbers in mind, I wonder how long SJU would last if they it did not have the relationship it has with CSB now.

I think the thing we need to

remember is that Bennies having pride that is separate from Johnnie pride does not mean we do not also have pride in our partnership. That is the thing, CSB/SJU is a partnership between two organizations that support and respect each other.

We have survived because we work together. CSB can be credited with "saving" SJU just as much as SJU has "saved" CSB. That does not mean that we should not have pride in being a Bennie. Bennies are hard working women who should find pride in our ability to be independent as well as our partnership with St. John's.

Sincerely,  
Olivia Irwin  
CSB Senior

"We recognize our differences and celebrate our commonalities."

p.8

2015-02-13, The Record, p. 8

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/42712>

# OPINION

OPINION EDITOR  
Bridget Barry • [bnbarry@csbsju.edu](mailto:bnbarry@csbsju.edu)

## Reader responses to 'Bennie Identity' letter from Feb. 6

Dear Editor,

Over the course of your lives you will, unfortunately, face attempts to have your value and voice taken away from you. Whether it's because of your sex, your gender, your age, your race, your religious affiliation or a variety of other reasons, there are some who will think they have the right to deflate you or speak for you.

All too often, these attempts at disenfranchisement are a result of fear and insecurity.

Please remember that your value and your identity can only be determined by you. Likewise, as a college community, we determine

our collective identity, our value, and our voice.

This is why the work of the CSB identity campaign is so important. I publicly thank the CSB Senate for their leadership of this effort. Please know that I am proud of you, I am proud of CSB and I wholeheartedly support your campaign to understand and proclaim our voice.

Bennies, we do not stop our progress because others are bound by their fears of our greatness. Continue to let your light

Sincerely,  
Mary Dana Hinton  
CSB President



Dear Editor,

The quality of the educational experience at St. John's University is inextricably tied to our coordinate relationship with the College of St. Benedict. We are proud and lucky to have the finest, Catholic women's college in the country as our partner. We will continue

to strengthen that partnership in the years to come in ways that will benefit both Johnnies and Bennies.

Sincerely,  
Michael Hemesath  
SJU President

p.8

2015-02-13, The Record, p. 8

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/42712>

# OPINION

OPINION EDITOR  
Bridget Barry • [bnbarry@csbsju.edu](mailto:bnbarry@csbsju.edu)

## CSB Senate responds to 'Bennie Identity' letter

We are proud. We are proud of how much we have grown as an institution and how our equal partnership with St. John's has flourished over the years.

We acknowledge the support that SJU has given us over the past 100 years. CSB is also proud to support SJU and the equal partnership we have built.

We are hopeful. We are hopeful for the future and excited

about where our school is headed. Over the past 100 years, CSB has helped to instill a love of learning and inspire many strong women leaders.

The CSB Senate knows that the women of our institution will showcase why they are proud to attend a successful all-women's college. CSB students are proud of the equal partnership we share with an all-male university; both

working together, yet with two separate identities. The relationship that CSB has with SJU is something special that should not be seen as an ownership or a merger.

Stay proud. Stay hopeful. Remember your roots, but always keep looking forward to the future.

p.8



2015-02-13, The Record, p. 8

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/42712>

Photo from <http://www.csbsju.edu/csb-student-senate/meet-your-senators>

# OPINION SJU Senate responds to 'Bennie Identity' letter

Upon rhetorically posing the question "Who run the world?" a wise pop star once told us it was "girls." Unlike this year's Grammy Award voters, none of us will ever doubt Queen B, but it wasn't until we met Bennies that we realized how true this was.

In all seriousness though, your leadership, intelligence and identity are indispensable to the community.

Because of this, we strongly disagree with Mr. Roger Lindmark's letter to the editor in last week's issue of The Record.

In many ways you run the CSB/SJU campus.

In fact, the case could often be made that Johnnies are actually

the ones relying on Bennies. For instance, it is well documented that Bennies have a higher GPA before and during college and are more likely to participate and take leadership positions in clubs on campus. (And let's not forget that Gorecki consistently offers bacon during breakfast while the Reef does not; if anyone is saving the other's bacon, it's probably you.)

Through your academic achievement and involvement in the community, you greatly enhance the value of Johnnies' college experience and education.

Since the partnership between CSB and SJU began, we have become increasingly interdepen-

dent. There are distinct Johnnie and Bennie identities, but there is also a broader CSB/SJU identity. Our identities are malleable and take shape through our experience, and since Bennies and Johnnies contribute a great deal to each other's college experience, our identities are intertwined.

If our community was deprived of a strong Bennie identity, we wouldn't be able to fully recognize our own identity as Johnnies. So let's continue to strengthen both our individual and joint identities through great initiatives like the Bennie Identity Committee.

In other words, keep doing what you're doing.



p.8

2015-02-13, The Record, p. 8

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/42712>

Photo from <http://www.csbsju.edu/sju-student-senate/senate-resources/senate-roster>



# OPINION

OPINION EDITOR  
Bridget Barry • [bnbary@csbsju.edu](mailto:bnbary@csbsju.edu)

## Tied institutional identities



By Rob Culligan  
[rculligan@suu.edu](mailto:rculligan@suu.edu)

Much has already been written in response to the Feb. 6 Letter to the Editor about "Bennie Identity" including fine statements by our two presidents. So, it would appear that nothing further needs to be said. However, since the original letter was written by a St. John's alumna, I think it is important for me to respond as the vice president that oversees alumni relations.

I want to assure readers that, in my estimation, this letter does not reflect the sentiments of our alumni, and it most certainly does not represent the views of the St. John's alumni office.

To the contrary, I believe the opposite to be true.

From my perspective, and I suspect the viewpoint of many if not most of our alumni, the College of St. Benedict is a full and

equal partner with St. John's University.

The growth of the College of St. Benedict in the 1970s, 80s, 90s and beyond is one of the great achievements of the institution. St. Ben's thrived due to the faith, vision, hard work and perseverance of the Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict as well as the lay and religious faculty members, staff, administration and board that have ably led the college throughout its history.

record and merit, in relationship with St. John's. Today, St. Ben's stands strong in terms of academics, athletics, the arts, global education and so much more.

St. John's and St. Ben's have a partnership of mutual interdependence.

The success of one college makes the other stronger and better. Both of the colleges have (and need) their own distinct mission and identity.

Moreover, we have a shared, coordinate mission and identity as well. The individual identity of one does not detract from that of the other. It's not always easy keeping these two identities in balance, but we have done it remarkably well over the years, and I'm confident that we will continue to do so moving forward.

As St. John's alumni, we should

take delight in the accomplishments of our St. Ben's partner. Similarly, I believe that St. Ben's alumnae should do the same when it comes to St. John's. All of us should equally embrace Johnnie Pride and Bennie Pride.

It is important that St. John's alumni proactively express and model positive, healthy and respectful relationships between men and women as well as between St. John's and St. Ben's. In 2008, I had the privilege to address the St. John's graduating class at the Senior Banquet. The title of my talk that evening was "Once a Johnnie, Always a Johnnie." I seized this opportunity to share some insights about what it means to be a Johnnie, and one of the traits I identified was respect for women. Specifically, I stated:

"St. John's and St. Ben's have an educational partnership that is unique in higher education. We are a college for men and a college for women, which intersect at every turn. We place great value on the intellectual, social, physical, spiritual and emotional development of both men and women."

I strongly believe that to develop fully as men, we must also develop an understanding, appreciation and reverence for women.

The Johnnies I look up to have a deep and profound respect for women. They listen to their

female friends and treat them with dignity. They view their female co-workers as peers and equals. They respect and honor their wives. They love and cherish their daughters. In a world where women are too often objectified, discriminated against, harassed and violated, we need good, strong men to listen, to hear, to stand up, to defend and to protect."

These observations hold true not just for how men treat women, but how St. John's University alumni should view and respect the College of St. Benedict. Johnnies and Bennies stand up for each other, they support each other, they respect each other.

We are not rivals or foes. We are family and we are friends.

There is no place at St. John's for sexism, chauvinism or condescending and derogatory remarks about women or the College of St. Benedict. That is not the Johnnie way. We expect far more from both our students and our alumni.

To be clear, there is no place at St. John's for sexism, chauvinism or condescending and derogatory remarks about women or the College of St. Benedict. That is not the Johnnie way. We expect far more from both our students and our alumni.

To be clear, there is no place at St. John's for sexism, chauvinism or condescending and derogatory remarks about women or the College of St. Benedict. That is not the Johnnie way. We expect far more from both our students and our alumni.

This is the opinion of Rob Culligan, the SUU Vice President of Institutional Advancement.

2015-02-20, The Record, p. 9  
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/42724>

# OPINION

OPINION EDITOR  
Bridget Barry • bnbarry@csbsju.edu

## CSB history misunderstood



**CSB history nuanced and historical context needed to fully understand the CSB/SJU relationship**

By Annette Atkins  
aat@csbsju.edu

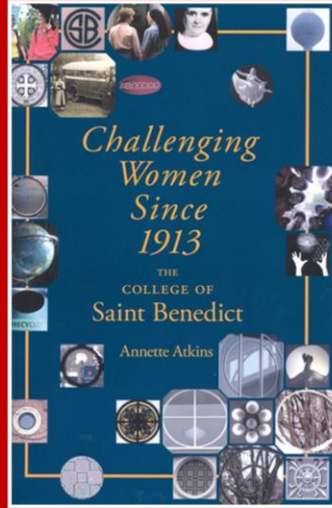
In his letter to The Record, Roger Lindmark retells a perception that many Johnnies shared in the 1970s (and was still common when I joined the SJU

college is thriving, expanding, led almost entirely by lay faculty and administration, peopled with a more international and religiously diverse student body, offering a quality education in cooperation with SJU.

Mr. Lindmark's account—that SJU carried CSB—is at best only partly true. For reasons that have more to do with larger societal factors than with the two colleges, SJU was bigger and richer. Those differences said little about the success and accomplishments of CSB (except that it had operated in an economy where women earned only a fraction of what men did—still in 2013 \$0.80 to \$1.00). Further, to pull CSB and SJU out of their larger Catholic, social and gendered contexts, as Mr. Lindmark's story does, is to misunderstand the meaning of our histories and an overly simplistic casting of a strong SJU and a weak CSB dangerously distorts the identities of both colleges. This version

p.7

“For issues that have more to do with larger societal factors than with the two colleges, SJU was bigger and richer....in an economy where women earned only a fraction of what men did – still \$.80 to \$1.00” in 2015.



2015-02-13, The Record, p.7

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/42711>

# OPINION OUR VIEW

## Why The Record chose to print 'Bennie identity' letter

"Our view" is prepared by the Executive board and should be considered the institutional voice of The Record

**Beth Leipholtz**  
Editor in Chief  
emleipholtz@csbju.edu

**Tierney Chlan**  
Managing Editor  
trmchlan@csbju.edu

**Jake Schultz**  
Managing Editor  
jlschultz@csbju.edu

Dear Editor,

I am the parent of a current CSB student—the Editor-in-Chief of The Record, in the interest of full disclosure.

Mr. Lindmark's letter got me thinking.

About 10 years ago, as young parents of five children, we ran into some money trouble.

My mother-in-law gave us enough money to help us. She never told us how to spend it, or how to budget after that. She never asked us to thank her repeatedly. In fact, she never mentioned it again.

It was a gift to people she cared

about, and who cared about her— a reciprocal relationship. We took care of our bills, and have never forgotten her gift. A gift that was given with no strings and no expectations. How lucky we are to have her.

Imagine if she expected us to be beholden to her for 40-plus years.

Thank you, SJU, for the help when CSB needed it. I think they've made you proud.

Sincerely,  
Megan Leipholtz  
CSB Parent

Unless you've been hibernating in your dorm, you've probably heard the buzz generated by a letter we recently published in The Record.

If not, here's a quick summary.

In a letter to the editor from the Feb. 6 edition, SJU alumnus Roger Lindmark expressed his opinion pertaining to the idea of "Bennie Identity," basically stating that it is unnecessary because CSB would not exist without SJU.

As a staff, we knew this letter was likely to offend some people on these campuses. We chose to publish it anyway. Over the past week, people have inquired as to our reasoning.

The following excerpt from our publication's mission explains why we chose to do so.

"The Record reserves the right to free speech. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the student body, faculty or of the CSB/SJU administration."

Although we could have refused to print Lindmark's letter, we chose not to. The purpose of the opinion/editorial section of a newspaper is for those who wish

to do so to express their opinions on certain topics. If a letter is vulgar or singles out an individual, it will not be printed. But we do not censor this section based on whether or not the content may be grounds for disagreement.

In choosing to publish Lindmark's letter, we also had to consider the overall mission of journalism. The Society of Professional Journalists states that their mission is to "To promote the flow of information" and "To maintain constant vigilance in protection of the First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and of the press"—both of which this letter did.

In the larger picture, events such as this teach us something valuable about the world. They teach us that while we may not always agree with opinions certain individuals express, we still will be exposed to them. They teach us that taking the higher road is something of value. But most of all, they teach us that as a community, Bennies and Johnnies care about one another and are integrated—a fact we are proud of today.

2015-02-13, The Record, p. 8

<http://cdm.csbju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/42712>

## To Be or Not To Be Charming?--That Is The Question

Beginning with a picnic in the woods, Wednesday, April 22, "Charm Week," sponsored by the Student Council, has been carried on the past week with a varied program each day.

"The well-read woman is the charming woman" was the theme of the library display, sponsored by the I. R. C. and the Readers' Guild Thursday. Friday the W. A. A. proved by exhibits that "athletics make a woman graceful."

A display of cosmetics by Fandel's of St. Cloud was available to students over the week-end. The Home Ec department gave hints on clothes and manners Monday. Tuesday the Ladies' Aid and Pro and Con club collaborated in demonstrating correct make-up, speech, and posture.

Culmination of the "Charm Week" was the candlelight dinner Thursday evening, followed by an hour of music charm on the south loggia. The program included selections by the string quartet, vocal selections by Ina Mae Pouliet, Verna Fritzvold, Charlene Gaffney, and Helen Bohlig, and numbers by the saxophone trio.

# THE BENET

Official Student and Alumnae Publication of the College of St. Benedict

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 8

APRIL, 1942

ST. JOSEPH, MINNESOTA



"Charm Week" culminated in the choice of the "Posture Queen"

1942-04 The Benet Volume 07 Number 08

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/1707> p.2

Photo from 1949 *Facula* p.51

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/3384> (Student on right is Merle Nolde.)

## On May 10 We Give Homage To Motherhood As Woman's True Vocation

We will wear our red or white carnations proudly on Sunday, May 10. Yes, we will all send our greetings and gifts to our mothers with perhaps a spiritual bouquet as our most precious offering. But how many of us will stop to think of the real meaning of Mother's day, hidden as it is behind the layers of sugary, commercial advertising? In a grim, war-riddled world where many consider motherhood a fit vocation only for those who fall as career women, how many of us will have the courage to look to motherhood as the fullest development of our physical, emotional, and spiritual powers?

It is only too easy in a war emergency to regard the mother's position in the home as unexciting, selfish work compared to the activity of other women who are taking the place of the fighting men in industry. If the law for drafting women is passed, mothers with small children will, of course, be exempt. But the moral and psychological consequences of such a law will undoubtedly make many homes, already fatherless, motherless too. Not that we begrudge the nation the best we have to give, but even in the darkest hours



Mary, the Model of Mothers

of war motherhood loses none of its essential importance.

It is true woman can adjust herself to carry on many works outside the home. The important duty, however, of training her children, the future citizens of the country, in principles of virtue and democracy takes precedence over all but the most extraordinary emergency measures. After all, a nation will never be stronger than its homes, and the bulwark of a home is the mother; she there maintains a defense line incomparably more important than any material, man-made line, military or police, may erect.

And so on May 10, we honor the women throughout the ages who have dedicated their lives to their children and their homes, always content to have their own identity hidden behind the one name "Mother." And to the thousands of mothers throughout the world today, who in being true to their splendid vocation are living inspirations to us, we say with genuine fervor, "May God bless you and may He give us the strength to be as true and honorable and fine as you are!"

1942-04 The Benet Volume 07 Number

08<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/1708> p.3

25 years later, when some classes are co-ed:

## Johnnies Rate Bennies As Class Stimulants

By Patty Radloff

How do Bennies rate? Perhaps the question should be—do we rate? Are we, socially and intellectually, able to “hold our own”? These and other questions were asked of several persons from that knowledge-full university across the fields—SJU. The responses given were rather pleasant—or interesting to say the least. With the added opportunities for meeting provided by the closer cooperation between CSB and SJU,

Johnnies seem to be finding that we all aren't the “Stearns County Mother” type!

When asked if he thought the Bennies were “on the ball” intellectually, one sophomore Johnny replied, “Yes, I think they are. I like having Bennies in classes. In fact, I would like to see every class eventually become coed. A girl will contribute a new slant or new dimension to a situation which is needed to receive a total view.”

On the other hand, one Johnny stated that contrary to adding a new dimension, he thought the Bennies were pulling St. John's down intellectually.

A view that comprises the two extremes was received from a teacher from St. John's who teaches speech at CSB when he stated, “I've had Bennies in the same class who did from A to F

A view that comprises the two extremes was received from a teacher from St. John's who teaches speech at CSB when he stated, “I've had Bennies in the same class who did from A to F work. I must say I was pleasantly—well, surprised, yes—delighted would probably be the better word with my speech class at CSB.

“I find the class interesting and stimulating. But I've been told that this is not representative of St. Benedict's. I've heard that many teachers at St. John's feel that generally the Bennies lack background on subject matter, they lack interest and lack intellectual curiosity. But I think those three charges could be leveled against the Johnnies too. In fact, you probably have them on every campus.

“Perhaps some of the areas that affect these problems could be those of faculty, academic standard, reason for being in school, and the administration. If you have a faculty who is alive, alert, and vital, this will communicate to the students. Naturally the academic standards of admission will in some measure determine the ability of the people with whom you may be dealing.

“Then too it is important to know why you are here. If you are here merely to get a better job—that's one thing. But if you are here out of a desire to learn and a keen intellectual curiosity, that is quite another.

“Finally, I think the administration plays some role as to its relative permissiveness of a wide variety of activities and its general openness. Generally, I'd say that you have to compete the students within a class and not isolate them from it. It depends upon the individual and the persons in the class.” (Incidentally, the Bennies in this teacher's class were said to have been “pleasantly surprised” —“delighted” with him too!

It seems, though, that no matter how “intellectual” or non-intellectual the Bennies may be, we still have a problem of the good ‘ole Benny social image. Several of the Johnnies questioned felt that as a whole the Bennies didn't really project a set image. One felt the Bennies seemed to be “kind of naive.”

When asked about what, he replied, “About everything! They seem to have a perpetual optimism, or a confidence that everything is or will be all right, when in fact it isn't all right.”

Another Johnny stated that the Bennies aren't the play girl of the month type. “They're not the example of the goddess of love. It used to be that you were going with a Benny you didn't dare mention it, but now most guys will say they're going with a Benny, and you can take it or leave it.”

“I think the attitude towards Bennies is changing. We may see the Bennies—but the basis now is more of a fun-type thing. Having the Bennies in classes and on campus has really helped. I think it's just what St. John's needed. The Johnnies have to be less gross and more civilized.”

Agreeing with him, another Johnny stated that “... at times the Johnnies can be almost savage—cruel, in fact. I think the presence of the Bennies on campus requires the Johnnies to be more on their best behavior. Maybe we can bring some culture and social grace to St. John's after all!”

Perhaps now the question is not how do Bennies rate, but how do I rate? Am I apathetic? Do I lack refinement? Maybe we can no longer hide behind the “Benny image” for it seems that we're being judged as individuals. Will we measure up?

The Torch Nov. 6, 1967, p.3

1967-11-06, The Torch, p.3

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/254>

## Yup, The Johnnies Really Love Us

## Yup, The Johnnies Really Love Us

By Debby Merickel

KSJU is serving the campuses of St. John's and St. Ben's. KSJU, we love you...or do we?

Tune in sometime and listen to the happy tone. The big "hits" seem to have degenerated to the big "slams." War is raging—raging here in Collegeville and St. Joseph.

The Johnny announcers at KSJU fired a few of their favorite jests at the females in the listening audience. It seems that the Bennies' humor has been mortally wounded. Johnnies have attacked the Bennies in this manner for years. For so long now, that it has become quite impersonal.

However, some of the girls felt duty-bound, and they counter-attacked by ferocious telephone calls to the radio station.

Defending the fort, girls? Your tongues make vicious weapons, but weapons don't encourage disarmament.

If the Johnnies truly hated the Bennies, they wouldn't bother with wisecracks.

Try to enjoy the attempted wit. When you take offense at these jokes, you are surrendering yourself unmercifully to an all-out battle.

Perhaps the unsatisfied listener could get a deferment or change allegiance to another station.

Christmas is coming—let there be peace.

### **Torch Meeting**

Dinner in Interim  
5:00 P.M. November 7  
**Be There!**

1967-11-06, The Torch, p.2


<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/253>

Page 2

the

pursuit, part two

**Benny Slams  
and  
Hot Dogs**



with doug ray

THE CAMPUSES OF ST. JOHN'S  
battlefields upon which great wars are fought.  
I had previously given the situation  
a knowledge of its existence but not  
The recent edition of *The Torch*, m  
dict's College, had two articles po  
present Benny image—although both articles failed to explain just what that  
image is and thus leaves the unknowing a wide open field. They were, howe  
ever, referring to the "Johnny slam Benny" game that has made its bid to  
tradition. Evidently, the women are incensed over such slams and seem to  
have a rough time retaliating for as one of the articles claimed, "Your (Ben  
nies) tongues make vicious weapons, but weapons don't encourage disarmam  
ent." Furthermore, the author calls for an  
part of the female warriors in the form of r  
cracks. It seems that if the Bennies desired th  
still, such advice would be well heeded.  
Tradition calls for the Benny jokes. It's wit  
and in common conversation. At times, suc  
article in the *Torch* refers to the announcers o  
the air waves to its female listeners. Such co  
degrees on the Collegeville campus and colder at St. Ben's." Poor taste on  
the part of announcers who are supposed to be selling products to maintain  
income for the operation of a student station and yet they seem to be cutting  
off part of the market. But it's all in good fun, supposedly. To attack one's  
pride is to hit close to the heart.  
Johnnies laugh, but the Bennies seem concerned. As witnessed through  
their newspaper, they are striving for a fairer recognition by male counter-  
parts on this campus. They desire an academic equality, to rid themselves of  
the "Stearns County Mother Complex" and suspiciously view male visitors  
to their campuses as some sort of creatures trying to keep a straight face. I  
would term these girls, holding similar attitudes as the "husband hunters"  
and term those that concern themselves little with the slams as those after  
an education, in college for the right purpose.

"Johnny slam Benny" game

Tradition calls for the Benny jokes.

But it's all in good fun, supposedly.

Johnnies laugh, but the Bennies seem concerned. As witnessed through their newspaper, they are striving for a fairer recognition by male counterparts on this campus.

They desire an academic equality

I would term these girls, holding similar attitudes as the "husband hunters" and term those that concern themselves little with the slams as those after an education, in college for the right purpose.

*The Record* Nov. 15, 1967, p.2

1967-11-15 *The Record* p.2

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33723>

Note: CSB started its own student newspaper, *The Torch*, in fall 1965.




Page 2

the

pursuit, part two

**Benny Slams  
and  
Hot Dogs**



with doug ray

THE CAMPUSES OF ST. JOHN'S  
battlefields upon which great wars are  
I had previously given the situation  
a knowledge of its existence but not  
The recent edition of *The Torch*, m  
dict's College, had two articles po  
present Benny image—although both articles failed to explain just what that  
image is and thus leaves the unknowing a wide open field. They were, howe  
ever, referring to the "Johnny slam Benny" game that has made its bid to  
tradition. Evidently, the women are incensed over such slams and seem to  
have a rough time retaliating for as one of the articles claimed, "Your (Ben  
nies) tongues make vicious weapons, but weapons don't encourage disarm  
ment." Furthermore, the author calls for an  
part of the female warriors in the form of r  
cracks. It seems that if the Bennies desired th  
still, such advice would be well heeded.  
Tradition calls for the Benny jokes. It's wit  
and in common conversation. At times, suc  
article in the *Torch* refers to the announcers o  
the air waves to its female listeners. Such co  
degrees on the Collegeville campus and colder at St. Ben's." Poor taste on  
the part of announcers who are supposed to be selling products to maintain  
income for the operation of a student station and yet they seem to be cutting  
off part of the market. But it's all in good fun, supposedly. To attack one's  
pride is to hit close to the heart.  
Johnnies laugh, but the Bennies seem concerned. As witnessed through  
their newspaper, they are striving for a fairer recognition by male counter-  
parts on this campus. They desire an academic equality, to rid themselves of  
the "Stearns County Mother Complex" and suspiciously view male visitors  
to their campuses as some sort of creatures trying to keep a straight face. I  
would term these girls, holding similar attitudes as the "husband hunters"  
and term those that concern themselves little with the slams as those after  
an education, in college for the right purpose.

"Johnny slam Benny" game

Tradition calls for the Benny jokes.

But it's all in good fun, supposedly.

Johnnies laugh, but the Bennies seem concerned. As witnessed through their newspaper, they are striving for a fairer recognition by male counterparts on this campus.

They desire an academic equality

I would term these girls, holding similar attitudes as the "husband hunters" and term those that concern themselves little with the slams as those after an education, in college for the right purpose.

*The Record* Nov. 15, 1967, p.2

1967-11-15 *The Record* p.2

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33723>

Note: CSB started its own student newspaper, *The Torch*, in fall 1965.

One issue of a joint student newspaper is published in 1968 on the topic of jointness

## CSB-SJU UNION UNDERGOES EXAMINATION

By John King

The past year and a half of study concerning cooperation between SJU and CSB will be brought into focus May 27 and 28 when the local six-member study committee meets with study director Dr. Lewis Mayhew and his staff.

At that time they hope to bring forward the first recommendations and possibly a working plan for consideration of the Board of Trustees.

Until now there have been no recommendations. Much of the \$40,000 Hill grant has been spent in hiring experts in the field of education like Dr. Matthew, President of the National Association of Higher Education, and his consultant Dr. James Fisher of Illinois State University and Dr. Robert Haasegger of Notre Dame.

Also, much time and money have gone into extensive study of other schools that are merging and the

problems they encountered. Mergers and co-institutionalization are taking place with increasing frequency across the country and this fact will weigh heavily when SJU and CSB decide whether to merge or not.

At the same time, a three-year review of academic plans by Henry Timmons and Sr. Francis and Dr. John Lange, Sr. of St. Joseph's, and Gordon Tavis and Terrence McKenna conducted a faculty opinion survey on co-institutional-

ization and found it favorable. Next month Dr. Mayhew's people will conduct a student opinion survey.

Although most of the effort has been directed toward exploring the problem, the two schools have felt the pinch, if limited, impact of the efforts.

The most beneficial, of course, has been the unified calendar and curriculum. With a minimum of credit, students can take advantage of courses on each campus. For the first time a history, for example, can major in psychology and a job may reap the benefits of the rich dramatic programs at St. Ben's. Nearly every department on the twin campuses has integrated their offerings and as a result they usually complement and enhance each other.

Incidental inter-campus bus service, joint meal permits and the joint bulletin are all the direct result of efforts towards cooperation. The January Term, when many students literally exchanged campuses, demonstrated that SJU and CSB can function together. Also joint faculty and departmental meetings have been occurring since a year ago last September. Also, for three years now the St. John's Computer Center has been handling the registration, grading and billing of students from both campuses.

But there are still many drawbacks and inefficiencies in the cooperation efforts. Every administrative department at St. John's has its duplicate at St. Ben's. In order to remedy this administrators from the two schools

have been meeting weekly to explore the advantages of unifying their offices in an administrative merger.

Also, many courses are still being duplicated. Both campuses want to retain their natural science departments, but obviously it is a waste to have two when one will do. The local study group is exploring the possi-

"Merger and co-institutionalization are taking place with increasing frequency...and this fact will weigh heavily when SJU and CSB decide whether to merge or not."



# The Record

Student Newspaper of St. John's University

Volume 81

Collegeville, Minnesota 56321, Thursday, March 28, 1968

This issue of the *Record-Torch* is an experiment. An experiment in co-institutionalization. It is intended as nothing more. The *Record* and the *Torch* are not permanently joined. The two papers have different goals on their campuses. Their editorial policies do not mesh and their orientations are divergent.

The *Record* aims at student views and has little hope or intention of

covering the news in whole. The *Torch* serves St. Benedict's more in the tradition of a college newspaper—covering news stories and publicizing campus events with secondary emphasis on opinion.

There are those who advise the two papers be united in the near future. The process of publishing this issue proved that a combination of the papers is not feasible in the im-

mediate future. The emphasis within the papers themselves and the desires of their readers seem to be varied.

At present, about all the *Record* and the *Torch* have in common are the same printer and this issue.

Some lessons about co-institutionalization can be learned from the preparation of this paper. First, cooperation is an essential feature of co-

operation. Neither school (paper) can hope to retain its traditions and standards intact. Second, there cannot exist two parallel power structures. Each institution must be united under one leader. How co-institutionalization is carried out at lower levels is not nearly as important as the structure at the top. A third result of this production is a realization

of the need for more aspects of St. John's and St. Ben's are combining. Eventually the *Record* and the *Torch* will be read. Whether the resultant publication is entitled the *Torch*, the *Record*, the *Arch*, the *Torch* or the *What Have You*, it will not be the *Record* or the *Torch*.

# THE TORCH

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE COLLEGE OF SAINT BENEDICT

Volume 4

St. Joseph, Minnesota, March 28, 1968

Number 6



1968-03-28, The Torch, p.1

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/445>

Thursday, March 28, 1968

the record the torch opin

### MARY KAY VETZ

The College of St. Benedict refers to itself as a Catholic liberal arts college for women (or so the 1967-69 *Bulletin* indicates on page 3). That is what it says on page three, but what does it say to us? What is a liberal arts college and what is a liberal education?

Woodrow Wilson describes the liberally educated person as one who "sees a little further than the next fellow and is not afraid to combine his ideas to see where they may lead."

A liberal education is the "scientific knowledge gained slowly and patiently by a willing and energetic student." A liberal education broadens a person's mind, thus enlarging his choice and developing the student's capacity to deal with life rationally and with a purpose.

A liberal education has been a pitiful rude awakening for many students. I say pitiful because too many realize too late how limited their knowledge is after graduation. A graduate in biology may know his

well-rounded education in music, literature, and the sciences.

The basic studies course is one such required course on this campus. It has as a central theme: Man's Search for Meaning. It deals with the fine arts, literature, natural and social sciences, theology and philosophy. This course of study frees the student's mind and allows her to become a civilized individual—an intellectual.

St. John's University has no such course, nor has it any such require-

### PAT ELLINGSWORTH

Alumni and alumnae call it a slur on tradition, educational conservatives refer to it as ghastly, and Johnnies term it unmasculine. The *it* is, of course, co-institutionalism and *it* seems to be an impending reality for St. Ben's and St. John's. Rather than squabble over the various arguments arising from the idea, I would prefer here to analyze the union from the perspective of its possible effects on the St. John's community in contrast to the present.

Implicit in all arguments on the topic is the feeling that the union between CSB and SJU will be either vitally beneficial or extremely detrimental to the prestige and quality of education at St. John's. A person's perspective in this regard depends primarily on his philosophy of education and of the sanctity of tradition. Recent developments in the social sciences, however, seem to indicate that certain points of view in this context are no longer tenable for the future of education.

The question of importance here, then, is: can St. John's afford to retain its present structure as a men's private college in light of such research?

1968-03-28, The Torch, p.7

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/451>

## TOM O'CONNELL

I favor immediate cooperation with the College of St. Benedict. Now, this doesn't mean I support the union of the two schools into one University—that would be a "merger." Nor does it mean that I'm for mixed housing (men and women free to live on either campus)—that would be "coeducation." Perhaps these things will come later. But for the present, I believe that St. John's and St. Ben's should move as quickly as possible to a "coordinate college" relationship. Departments should be unified under one head with duplicate courses (and teachers) eliminated. Administrative functions like those performed by the registrars' and development office should be unified where possible. Admissions policy should be standardized. On the student level, student activities should be planned jointly, and the campus clubs integrated. Perhaps, even the student governments of the two schools should plan an eventual merger. At any rate, regardless of the specifics, the point is this: without going so far as to lose their separate uniqueness as individual institutions, St. John's and St. Ben's should do everything possible to cooperate on all levels.

Why coordinate with St. Ben's? The answers are fairly obvious to anyone who puts aside the common tendency of human beings to react on a gut level ("Bennies are dumb," "Girls pollute the atmosphere," etc.). The first and most important reason for coordination is the simple fact that a more intensive cooperation means more educational opportunities for students at both schools. The elimination of duplicated courses and instructors will free funds to invest in other curricular areas now ignored because neither school has the necessary resources to establish them. Anthropology, for example, is one area that is being discussed in this context. In addition, there is the opportunity to beef up and expand the curricular areas now in existence. Departments that are short-handed or generally weak could be bolstered—one move that few would question the desirability of. In short, by pooling resources the two schools can provide better educational opportunities than one.



1968-03-28, The Torch, p.7

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/451>

**TOM O'CONNELL**

The second advantage of a coordinate relationship with St. Ben's—and from a practical standpoint, the one that may prove the most overriding of all—concerns economics. The fact that a coordinate set up means a more efficient use of academic and administrative facilities has already been pointed out. It doesn't take a business major to figure out that efficiency means saving money. Secondly, coordination may help the University solve one of its most basic problems—how to attract more students. Studies of the senior classes in today's high schools show that they are less enchanted with the prospects of attending single sex institutions than ever before. Whether or not this indicates that today's high school senior is a bigger ladies' man (or vice versa) than his predecessors is open to question. What it does indicate is that it will take increasingly more than a good academic record and a rugged backwood masculinity to attract him to a given college. The third economic factor involves federal grants. It is a simple fact that government money is easier to come by in coeducational or coordinate institutions.



The third reason for going coordinate is one that should be appreciated by every student of both institutions. There is something inherently unrealistic about education in an isolated single sex institution. Without going into a long sermon on the difficulties of social adjustment in colleges made up of all males or all females, let it merely be pointed out that there are certain fundamental differences in outlook between the two groups that comprise humanity. Since, the "real world" (which, incidentally, college is supposed to be preparing us for) is not a mono-sexual one, it takes only a bit of common sense to realize that associating and working with members of the opposite sex can be an extremely "educational" experience.

1968-03-28, The Torch, p.7

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/451>

SAINT BENEDICT'S  
 SAINT JOSEPH, MINNESOTA 56374 FALL, 1969



by Dr. Stanley J. Idzerda

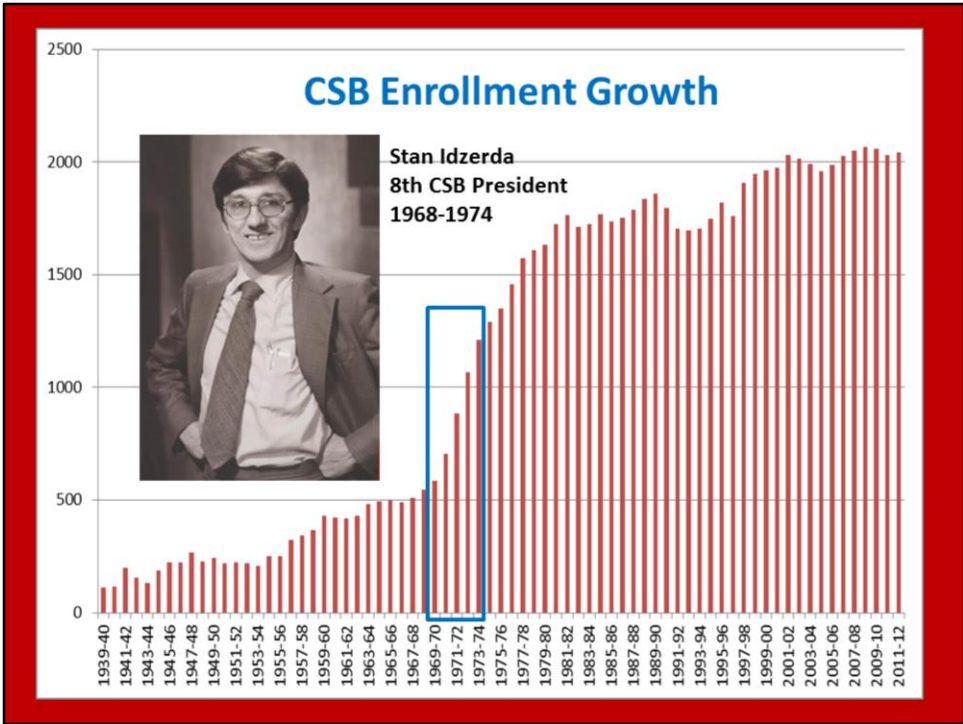
neither wants hastily to overthrow any aspect of a special identity so carefully wrought since the Benedictines first carved schools out of the Minnesota wilderness so many years ago. Neither wants to compromise on quality, and on both campuses there are diffuse anxieties that some particular excellence on the one campus might be diminished by joining with a program which is perhaps weaker. If there has been an "identity crisis" it has been met by a resolve to preserve the identity, flavor, style and outlook of each campus, even while we go forward with more common efforts. Despite these

"FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO 'COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY'"  
 SISTER RUMBERTA WESTGAHMER RECEIVES THE PRESIDENT'S  
 MEDAL FROM PRESIDENT IDZERDA

New CSB president Stan Idzerda makes the case for cooperation

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/869> cover; article on p. 5-7  
 1969-09 Saint Benedict's Fall p.7

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/878>



Idzerda photo from SBMArchives



Sister Firmin Escher,  
O.S.B. Director of  
Planning and  
Research

## “An Interinstitutional Cooperative Higher Education Program of Two Benedictine Institutions, 1962-1980”

Years later, S. Firmin documents how the relationship evolved.

(i.e. 1971)

By the end of the Coordinator's second year, the thirty-month deadline to realize a possible merger was fast approaching. There was considerable unrest among constituencies of the institutions--trustees, some administrators, and particularly the Presidents about an impending merger. The issue was addressed again and it was agreed that a high degree of coordination was advisable but a merger would destroy the identity of each institution. There was some anxiety about losing that uniqueness which each institution believes is essential to its own identity and purpose. There were equally strong beliefs that coordinate institutions could realize an effective solution toward achieving the goal reiterated so many times over an eight-year period. And so the idea of merger was ruled out and a high degree of coordination between two autonomous institutions was determined as the goal.

Sister Firmin Escher, O.S.B. Director of Planning and Research February 16, 1981  
ICHEP (An Interinstitutional Cooperative Higher Education Program of Two  
Benedictine Institutions, 1962-1980) p.23

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/6106>



The College of Saint Benedict is developing a new general education program to be implemented by Fall 1978. The program seeks to help our students develop into the generally educated, fully functioning person influenced by Christian, Catholic, Benedictine tradition. We see the CSB student developing intellectual, interpersonal and physical-manual competences, with a sense of identity, a clarity of purpose, emotional integrity and spiritual maturity.



*Saint Benedict's Today*  
March 1978

*Sophomore Ann Coughlin (Appleton, Wisc.) shares a laugh with Signe Chell (Rock Island, Ill.) at the recent Intergenerational January Enrichment Week on campus.*

1978 Saint Benedict's Today March

p.4 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/3878>

## Why Johnny Can't Relate

By Bill Budzien

The first weeks of school are always a hectic time for the student. It usually takes a while for everyone to settle down into the academic routine and, after a month of school, we are all prepared to lead the life of full-time students for the next eight months.

Contrary to popular belief, however, there is more to this life than playing hockey in the halls, reading the Chaplain's Letter, and going to the La every Thursday night. In the true Benedictine tradition of community spirit, a major portion of the activity on campus involves social intercourse with our neighboring school, the College of St. Benedict. Some students deny that any tension exists between the two schools, while others are well aware of the sensitive situation.

The issue of our sociability usually draws some attention when the SEC and SAB get together (that is when the Bennies accuse the Johnnies of being male chauvinists) and occasionally flares up when the lines on ice cream night are exceptionally long (that is when the Johnnies accuse the Bennies of being

Bennies). No matter what impression these two schools have of each other, I am sure that everyone agrees their relationship is getting better. Unfortunately, many reforms still must be made, and it would seem best if this reconstruction could start with the freshmen. There are many misconceptions between campuses which freshmen are forced to figure out for themselves, and they are usually eager to do so.

One of these misconceptions has to do with the brother-sister brother-sister floor parties are usually just that—misconceptions.

I was caught unawares by Nature the other day and had to make a pit stop in one of the freshmen bathrooms. This is an exchange (unedited) that I heard behind two closed shower curtains; the curtains were closed to protect the innocent.

First Freshman Johnnie: How was the sister-floor party over at St. Ben's last night?  
Second Freshman Johnnie: They didn't have enough brew.

First Freshman: No? How  
(Continued on page 11)

### Sociability (cont.)

about munchies?

Second Freshman: Munchies were all right. You should have seen the girls.

First Freshman: Nice babes?

Second Freshman: The RA is okay. One blond was a fox deluxe. It would have been nice to get her drunk and take advantage of her.

First Freshman: Anyone else?  
Second Freshman: Naw—some were pretty rude.

First Freshman: I heard from some upperclassman that you just have to put bags over their heads.

Second Freshman: Yeah, but with some of them you'd have to put a bag over your own head, too, in case one of theirs fell off.

They both erupted with uncontrollable laughter. I just flushed and made my exit.

The generalizations in the preceding exchange only hinder an already slow reconciliation process. I would hope that Johnnies have enough class to refrain from such slander in the future, even

at the expense of a good laugh. Unfortunately, this author has not had the opportunity to eavesdrop on any freshmen girls' after-shower conversations. I do not know whether I would be able to hear anything above the hum of hairdryers anyway, but I am sure their dialogue would run on somewhat similar lines. Although I have never heard of a Johnnie having "breeder" hips, men of St. John's have often been under fire for vainly maintaining self-imposed macho images.

Such accusations, though, are just as uncalled-for. A mutual respect between campuses is in order.

I hope any misconceptions that still exist may soon be eliminated. As one observant student mentioned to me the other day, "The girls on campus seem to be getting prettier every year." Despite the fact that this man was stoned when he made the comment, I am sure that we are all appreciative of the female element that graces this campus.

The Record Oct. 6, 1978, p.9 & 11

1978-10-06, The Record p.9 & 11

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/35177>

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/35179>

# The Record

This heah Record is the official student newspaper of St. John's Corral. That's O.K. with us. It is published whenever the stage comes through unmolested. We'll be danged if the opinions expressed heahin belong to the Abbey, the University, the student body, or the Apache Nation. (To whom we offer 24 dollars'-worth of trinkets or firewater for the return of a certain Vice-President's scalp.)

Co-editors Mark Dillon and Festus King "wrote shotgun" this issue. Copy Editor Hoss Privratsky is reputed to have the fastest pen in the (Mid) West. Calamity Lahti, our Regular Features Editor, has once again lived up to her name. Sports Editor Doc O'Brien takes the head-count at the massacres. Banker Lucas (alias "The Gun") McKeown is wanted for horse thieven'. Lone Range-Finder Little Joe Krzmarzick has been known to shout, "Hi, ho, silver nitrate!" Judge Roy Helm is our pony express rider.

p.2



A regular (?) column – p. 6

*The Record* Oct. 6, 1978, p.9 & 11

(Given other bits of evidence in *The Record* – how serious was the writer?)

1978-10-06, The Record p.2

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/35170>

p.6 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/35174>

## Darts to Budzien

To the Editor:

As aware CSB women, we have experienced and felt the tenuous Johnnie/Bennie relationships that exist and realize that a statement must be made from our perspective concerning this situation. Specifically, we intend to counter Bill Budzien's shallow, misleading, and poorly written article entitled "Why Johnny Can't Relate," published in the October 6 issue of the Record.

Although Mr. Budzien may have intended to shed light on Johnnie/Bennie relationships, his article set our relationships back roughly to the time of the suffragettes. While we are in accord with his basic assertion that tension exists, we adamantly disagree with his interpretations. His insensitivity to, and superficial analysis of, the issue has turned his article into yet another stale Bennie joke.

and the sparks flew...

The frightening aspect of this article is not the specific examples Budzien uses, for they are not commonplace; but rather, the attitudes behind them, for they are harmful, oppressive, and degrading. More than this, they continue to be generated by peer reinforcement. Before we can attempt to regard Johnnie/Bennie relationships as a whole, we must first confront ourselves with our own personhoods; only then can we look at ourselves in the role of a Johnnie or a Bennie.

In particular, we would like to address the examples Budzien cites. The issue behind the SAB-SEC confrontation was hardly a "social affair," Mr. Budzien. It was our struggle for recognition as equals and was yet another opportunity for the resurfacing of the "self-imposed macho image" of the SEC—and consequently, the degradation of CSB women (i.e., three-piece suits, "a penny for a Bennie," limits on CSB participation, etc.).

The other example of "social intercourse"—ice cream night—reeks of yet another stale Johnnie joke, and we seriously question its validity—as if Johnnie perspectives are so narrow as to define a Bennie in terms of what she eats, thus totally disregarding her personhood. Congratulations are also in order to the artist of the accompanying cartoon, who contributed to the overall sick representation of a Bennie.

How can you dare to state, Mr. Budzien, that our relationships are "getting better" when your examples—in fact, the entire article—serve only to alienate us further from one another by promoting myths and lies concerning women?

tion to know that sexism exists on these campuses (we need only to go as far as our everyday experiences to be made aware of it). Your dialogue served only to point out that women are too often regarded as objects to be rated and scored, yet in the process degraded the Johnnies also. We want to believe that the example is not representative of a Johnnie mentality. We doubt that even a Johnnie would find this the basis for "a good laugh."

1978-10-20 The Record p.2

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/35220>

## Darts to Budzien

tion to know that sexism exists on these campuses (we need only to go as far as our everyday experiences to be made aware of it). Your dialogue served only to point out that women are too often regarded as objects to be rated and scored, yet in the process degraded the Johnnies also. We want to believe that the example is not representative of a Johnnie mentality. We doubt that even a Johnnie would find this the basis for "a good laugh."

You call for a mutual understanding between the campuses based on respect for each other, but your conception of the role of CSB women as beautifying the campus has nothing to do with respect.

The generally subtle insults in your article become blatant at this point when you state that women are here for the sensual pleasure of Johnnies. Your qualification of the quote "despite the fact that this man was stoned when he made the comment," leads us all to believe that one must be stoned to pay a compliment to a Bennie—even one as meaningless as physical beauty. We are as much challenged by the needs of society today as Johnnies are, and we do not see our purpose here as anything other than to meet these contemporary challenges. This in no way means our self-fulfillment comes about through pleasing men, but rather that it is a result of self-actualization as women.

We would like to extend to the **Record** and its readers a challenge to try again to find a man who can be sensitive to women and yet give a more in-depth, revealing, and accurate account of our co-existence as men and women.

Hoping our challenge is met:  
Nance Field  
Nancy Bennett  
Jane Lenarz

and flew...

1978-10-20 The Record p.3

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/35221>

## Darts to Budzien

### To the Editor:

As the Chaplain at CSB, I can only express my dismay at the lack of sensitivity to the rights of women manifested occasionally in the pages of the **Record**.

If such demeaning and offensive remarks were attributed to any other group of persons from Blacks, to gays, to handicapped, there would be accusations of prejudice and rank discrimination. Perhaps because women—including the students of CSB—have suffered discrimination as second rate human beings for so long and are so taken for granted, it is still acceptable to caricature them as objects and to use gross humor to impugn their competence intellectually and otherwise.

and flew...

I was pleased to read the recent article by Bill Budzien calling for greater cooperation and respect between the two schools, but even that involved an offensive and insulting dialogue (i.e., the old "bags over their head" chatter) as a tantalizing exhibit that only perpetuates the ridicule. And then I turned the page to find a cartoon (the ice cream and Tab routine) that contradicts the very intent of the article and which demonstrates how deep-seated is the disease in academic institutions where it should be least likely to be found.

If women did not have to "over achieve" simply to achieve professional competence, such remarks could remain ignored. If women did not have so much talent and competence that could be used to counteract the many other injustices in the world, then we could move on and address them exclusively. If women did not suffer so much hurt and ignominy, then the jokes could be laughed at.

I may be accused of "female chauvinism" as Chaplain at St. Ben's, but I'm pleased to accept the accusation—and to work closely in ministry with many competent and outstanding women.

But more complaining is necessary. I think it should be possible to convene a group of concerned students from both campuses to address a problem that affects the cooperation of both communities so seriously.

George P. Wertin  
Chaplain

1978-10-20 The Record p.3

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/35221>

## Darts to Budzien

To the Editor:

It seems to be part of the **Record's** editorial policy to include in each issue at least one denigrating comment concerning the students at St. Ben's. Perhaps to say every issue is an exaggeration nevertheless, I am sure that last week's edition made up substantially for any lost print. Bill Budzien's article and the cartoon both left a bad taste in my mouth (as does, believe it or not, the combination of Tab and ice cream).

Bill writes of the misconceptions existing between the campuses "which freshmen are forced to figure out." Apparently, however, no one had ever forced him to figure them out, for he falls victim to a far greater misconception than that to be expected at a brother-sister floor party. Bill seems to feel that women would be complimented by the knowledge that their "element" is a grace to St. John's campus. Women, however, do not enjoy being reduced to such token pieces; and by referring to them in this context, Bill has equated their presence at St. John's to what, for example, the addition of some new shrubbery would be: nice to look at, but quite insignificant.

Carol Reichert

and flew some more

1978-10-20 *The Record* p.4

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/35222>

# Identity and Excellence

## 1994 Strategic Planning

"Identity" as part of the Strategic Plan

by Colman O'Connell OSB  
CSB president



Seven issue areas emerged from the earlier staff work and were presented for consideration: enrollment, identity, decision-making/governance, multiculturalism, finances, human resources and excellence.

The board agreed that, because of its centrality and relevance to all of important strategic issues, identity should be addressed first. Achieving an articulated and actionable consensus on the nature of the two institutions, both as separate colleges and in their coordinate relationship, is most important for dealing with the full range of identified issues.

1994 Spring Saint Benedict's Today\_Page\_04

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/5102>

Also documented in 1994-03-16 Connections p. 4

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/2043>





With the two schools melding so much, how do you know that Saint Ben's is still its own institution with its own identity?

"The schools are not 'melding.' The two schools are working coordinately. ... The last thing we need is one more coed college. ... We've made every effort to provide training to the faculty to understand that we're serving men and women; we're not serving 'people.' We never talk about commitment to 'students' in general, but to men and women students."

1996-06 Saint Benedict's Today Summer p.4

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/5377>

## A Young Man's Song

Submitted by Charles Thornbury, professor of English, and Michael Blecker, professor in the humanities

*Editors' Note: The following address by Charles Thornbury was presented at the SJU Academic Convocation on Sept. 4. The presentation given on the same day by Kaarin Johnston at the CSB All-College Convocation will be published in next week's Connections. The speakers were asked to address gender issues. Thornbury's talk focuses on men's issues, while Johnston's presentation focuses on women's concerns.*



### 1996 SJU Convocation

[At SJU] we pay special attention to the development of young men. We are unique in being one of a few undergraduate colleges that admits only males. We are also unique in our partnership with CSB. We take pride in our common identity, but each college also takes pride in attending equally to the developmental and intellectual needs of young men and young women that often get lost in an exclusively coeducational setting.

In the past 10 years or so, Saint John's has been sorting out a new identity in relation to Saint Ben's. In the 1960s, CSB was a college of about 500 students. By 1976 the first-year class was 500 students, about the size of this year's class. When I was hired in 1977, SJU had nearly 200 more students than CSB (SJU 1,760 and CSB 1,572). While SJU enrollment has remained about the same, CSB now has nearly 300 students more than SJU. This dramatic shift in numbers highlights the changes that have taken place in American society. Large numbers of women play major roles in the workplace, and in doing so they have made the privilege of men's gender visible. Until we are made aware of our privilege, we believe the present order of things is normal and natural.

Identity issues addressed in public addresses such as Convocation

1996-09-12 Connections p. 2-3

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/2138>

Photo from 1986 SJU Alumni Magazine Volume 25 Number 03 Spring

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/5516>



2004:  
The Sister Nancy Hynes Center  
for Women opens in the HCC



Center for Women celebrates grand opening



Photos by Chris Lazzardi, *The Record*  
St. Ben's interim president Carol Guardo (left) and English professor S. Nancy Hynes toast the official opening of the Center for Women on Monday in the HCC. The center is located in what used to be the HCC's game room.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday marked the grand opening of St. Ben's new Center for Women. The center will sponsor several events throughout the school year, including "lunchtime lectures," which will feature different topics presented by faculty and other speakers.



Three CSB students enjoy the Center for Women during its grand opening Monday. The center looks to help inform people of gender related issues.

"Center for Women Celebrates Grand Opening," *The Record*, April 1, 2004, p.1.  
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/32045>  
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/CSBArchNews&CISOPTR=32055&REC=4>  
<http://apps.csbsju.edu/csbarchives/TimeLineDetails.aspx?id=671>

*The Record* begins a series of articles on CSB Identity on March 15, 2007

### THE CSB IDENTITY CRISIS

During last year's "State of the College" address, CSB president MaryAnn Baenninger publicly stated the need for CSB students to be proud of their school. The Record looks at a series of controversial decisions that have followed

## A long, hard look in the mirror

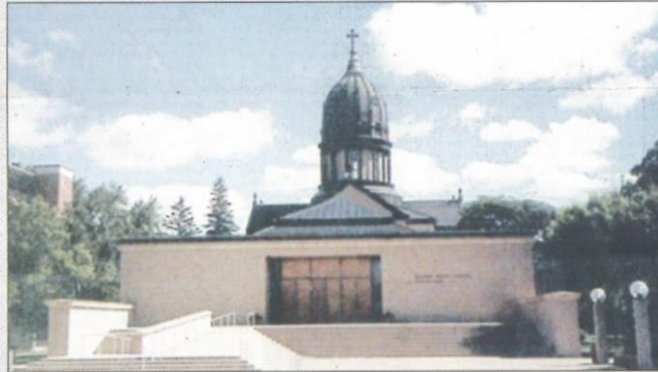


Photo courtesy of [www.stm.csb.org](http://www.stm.csb.org)  
A study by a psychology professor reveals that CSB/SJU students do not associate themselves as strongly with CSB as with SJU.

2007-03-15, The Record, p. 1

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/32983>

# IDENTITY

► from Page 1

CSB president MaryAnn Baenninger addressed the CSB identity crisis in last May's "State of the College" address.

"I've been talking with [CSB] students," she said. "They tell me that they think of St. John's as their brother, but they think of St. Ben's as their mother."

"We need our students to be proud of St. Ben's," she said.

"I'm sworn to address the issue. Baenninger is putting forward a proposal that would require

CSB students to live on campus for all four years of their college experience.

She has also instructed CSB/SJU student employees at St. Ben's to cease wearing SJU apparel at their on-campus jobs.

In the following weeks, The Record will cover this issue in depth.

In addition to Baenninger's proposals for housing and CSB student employees, we will explore psychological studies by Bacon and by CSB students in conjunction with additional faculty.

From sexism and images of superiority to the merits of "Blazer" vs. "Bennie," we hope to ignite the discussion on campus and explore what it truly means to be a student at CSB/SJU.

The Record March 15, 2007



## New CSB Ppresident MaryAnn Baenninger outlaws SJU logo wear for CSB student employees at work



2007-03-15, The Record, p. 7

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/32989>

## President responds to CSB identity crisis

The Record March 22, 2007

Dear Editor,

I thank the Record for focusing on CSB identity. CSB is thriving and we need to spread the word.

We have much to be proud of, including our dear Sisters' 150th Anniversary, highly accomplished alumnae, being cited by the Chronicle of Higher Education as having one of the country's fastest growing endowments, national recognition for our BAC, very strong enrollments and rising selectivity, a glorious new dining center and two-thirds of our students studying abroad.

And there's much more.

I do need to "set the Record straight" on a few things. The Sacred Heart Chapel pictured in the CSB identity article belongs to the Sisters.

They welcome us generously, but it's not a College building.

The four-year residency is a coordinate CSB and SJU discussion and is unrelated to the identity issue.

I was interviewed on the residency topic, and I look forward to reading that article.

It is correct that I have asked workers in CSB-only areas to wear CSB logo-wear if they wear logos at all.

The CSB students I've spoken with about CSB identity understand why I requested this. I'd be happy to discuss it with anyone who has a concern.

CSB students are the brightest and most accomplished students I've encountered in my career.

I'm proud to be here among them. I encourage the Record to interview me in person or by phone on the topic of identity; I'd be more than happy to talk about CSB.

It's my favorite subject.

MaryAnn Baenninger  
CSB President



2007-03-22, The Record, p. 8

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33016>

# Stop the hostility between St. Ben's and St. John's

By George Konstantinides  
gkonstant@csbsju.edu

There are so many places throughout this world where I can imagine war.

Maybe the image is created by the media, or possibly by stereotypes I have gathered from simply being alive.

When I think about those places, I have a terribly difficult time placing Central Minnesota among the likes of the Middle East and other such locations known for their strife and discord.



Apparently my belief in the safety and security of this area of our state is wrong because it was brought to my attention

that we are currently at war, CSB and SJU that is.

In last week's Record, an article was written implying the idea that our campuses are at war.

It also mentioned the decision of the CSB president to control the apparel of students working at CSB.

Maybe I am wrong, and if I am, an apology can be expected, but aren't CSB and SJU two educational institutions that are renowned worldwide for their relationship with each other?

I could have sworn we mention that in every single admissions program our schools put on.

Note: we have a joint admission office.

Maybe this means we are lying to the thousands of people who want to come to CSB/SJU next year.

Hopefully, President Baenninger can clear that up for us because I am guessing prospective students might find it helpful to know that our schools are at war. Most importantly, if a gap

exists, and maybe it does, then the decision to control the attire of CSB employees will only widen the rift.

We are two schools built on the same tradition. We share campuses and classrooms.

Going further, we are friends with each other. I find it hard to believe a war exists when a significant number of CSB/SJU students end up marrying each other.

Wars do not exist until people in power tell us they do. As a student at CSB/SJU (note: not just SJU), it is

offensive to think President Baenninger would ever institute rules to widen any distance between CSB and SJU.

Maybe I misread the article. Maybe I am oblivious to the war.

Maybe CNN should really come and cover this story because Iraq seems to be boring them.

If they do, I will make sure to wear my SJU sweatshirt. This is the opinion of George Konstantinides, an SJU Senior.

More from the March 22, 2007 issue

## Consider alternate ways to build CSB pride

Dear Editor,

In the March 15th edition of the Record, the front page story addressed the "CSB Identity Crisis" and mentioned that one option to fix the problem is to require St. Ben's students to live on campus all four years.

I know that this won't be happening anytime soon and that it won't affect me directly, but I really question how this is going to increase "Bennie Pride."

There obviously is not enough housing right now. Therefore, they will have to build more upperclassmen housing.

Where will they put this? How will they pay for this? Since St. Ben's currently

does not get the same amount in alumni donations as St. John's does, tuition would be increased.

On top of that, the requirement of living on campus all four years rather than just the option will most likely turn prospective students away from the college.

If enrollment declines, tuition would most likely go up again.

To me, it seems like it's just another way to get more money from students that are already paying a lot to go to this school.

If we really want to increase the pride of the students at St. Ben's, there are other things that could be improved first. Although we have the No. 2

study abroad program in the country, a number of qualified students didn't get into their first choice programs this year.

Or, focus more on a tradition that Bennies would be able to carry out that would leave a lasting impression.

Or, focus more on a tradition that Bennies would be able to carry out that would leave a lasting impression.

Some didn't even get in at all. I believe that there are better answers out there to solve the "identity crisis" that is currently taking place, and that these options and others should be considered first.

Angela Schmitz  
CSB Sophomore

2007-03-22, The Record, p. 8

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33016>

**THE CSB IDENTITY CRISIS**

# What not to wear



Photo by Peter Myers • pmyers@csbsju.edu

Student employees at some CSB jobs were asked not to wear apparel such as this sweatshirt.

In part three of the four-part series, "CSB Identity Crisis," The Record examines CSB's motives behind the new workplace apparel preferences

**By John Baeth**  
jbaeth@csbsju.edu

On March 5, an O'Connell's student manager, Traci Holman, received an e-mail from McGlynn's head manager, Terri Bernardi, saying that all CSB student employees were asked not to wear SJU apparel to work.

The change in dress-code was suggested by CSB president, MaryAnn Baeminger.

**Behind the scenes**

Holman was disappointed by the change.

"O'Connell's was started by students," Holman said. "It has always been run by students, and to have this new rule implemented without any student input is frustrating."

Holman said that it was not the change itself that bothered her, but rather the manner in which it was instituted. She also said that this process of what

she considers administrative intervention has been executed before.

In an e-mail to the student body Monday, Baeminger outlined the policies she and other administrators would be implementing concerning the new alcohol service at O'Connell's. Within the O'Connell's workplace, student managers were instructed via e-mail as to how the student-established restaurant would be run in the coming months.

"We were really excited to start serving alcohol and hire a new staff on our own, and now we are told that we can only hire six new employees and that we can only serve alcohol on designated nights," Holman said. "I get the vibe from her that she does not really care about our thoughts, I would not even recognize Baeminger if she walked into the room."

▶ See IDENTITY Page 6

*Students provided no photos during this session.*

The Record March 29, 2007

## IDENTITY

▶ See Page 1

**Conflicting motives**

Baeminger insists that the change in student worker dress code does not reflect any push by the school administration to limit CSB student pride, but rather a means to alleviate any confusion visitors may have about the schools' separate identities.

"We have a lot of visitors on campus," Baeminger said via an e-mail statement. "Our joint and separate identities can be confusing for these visitors... We are working to eliminate that confusion by providing clear guidance to CSB employees about logo-wear at CSB campus jobs."

In the same statement, Baeminger also comments on the pragmatic fact that student workers would not have to change their dress too drastically.

"CSB cafeteria workers, including student workers, already wear a uniform so this request isn't a change for them," Baeminger said. "CSB/SJU students in joint areas (e.g. Admissions) are asked by their supervisors to wear CSB/SJU joint logo-wear regardless of which campus they work on."

Bernardi said that he believes that the change in uniform policy also pertains to the use of CSB identity, and not only to avoid confusion.

"There is this thought that CSB does not have the same name recognition as SJU," Bernardi said. "We have so many visitors to the school, and we want them to see that we are proud of CSB, not just St. John's."

Holman also said that she believes that this is an issue of identity and said that she agrees that St. Ben's students should be proud of their school, but not have that pride forced upon them.

"I understand where (Baeminger) is coming from," Holman said. "But many of the workers are employed through St. John's. It just does not make sense that they can not represent their school too."

Students were not instructed not to wear apparel representing other schools, Holman said.

**Disappointment from the sidelines**

Several St. John's students employed by McGlynn expressed their disappointment with the new CSB apparel preference.

"I was just told by the management that it was about SJU being a competing school," O'Connell's employee and SJU advisee Erik Hohenstein said. "I'm not excited about it."

First-year John Hohenstein also expressed dismay over the issue.

"CSB/SJU are joint schools, and I do not know what the big deal is," Hohenstein said.

When asked to address the conflicting sentiments of student workers and managers, Baeminger refused.

"I have provided a thorough statement. That is the straight story that students deserve," Baeminger said via e-mail. "(The) College of Saint Benedict is not in a competition. If there are employees who believe that it is, they are misperceiving."

**Plans for a change in how we change**

Regardless of the intent of the new dress code, Holman believes that the CSB administration is not instituting policy in an appropriate manner.

"Any changes (the CSB administration) have made, they do not tell us why they make them. They just tell us to do it."

With regards to how O'Connell's should be managed, Holman offers an alternative to the e-mailed policies.

"I think that (Baeminger) should come in and talk to us before implementing new policies," Holman said. "We would be cooperative and, in the end, implement a collaborative change."

**▶ UP NEXT**

A few hours today confirms that SJU students visit to their school more than CSB students do.

- 2007-03-29, The Record, p. 1  
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33072>
- 2007-03-29, The Record, p. 6  
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33077>



**THE CSB IDENTITY CRISIS**



Photos by Gioa Quynh Thanh Hoa, Troy Lochner and Peter Myers • ghoang@csbju.edu, tlochner@csbju.edu, pomyers@csbju.edu

**CSB students are more likely than their counterparts at SJU to wear apparel from either or both schools.**

## Examining the great divide

In March, the CSB Identity Crisis was introduced to the front page. In the final installment of this four-part series, The Record gets feedback from administrators on the report by Pam Bacon that started it all

**By Eric Mosley**  
edmosley@csbju.edu

Questions like "should I wear an SJU sweatshirt?" and "why don't we have CSB/SJU on our diplomas?" have been discussed by student-led discussion groups at CSB/SJU for years, said Gar Kellom, vice president of Student Development at SJU.

After 16 years of working at CSB/SJU Kellom believes that gender difference and inequality has always been an issue, because it

fit's the bigger issue of living in a gendered society.

A recent study by associate professor of psychology Pam Bacon titled "Male and Female Students' Identification with the College of St. Benedict" found that women equally identify with both schools much more often than men do.

The study showed that almost 20 percent of the men sampled identified themselves as completely "Johnnie." None identified as more "Bennie" than "Johnnie."

Only 7.8 percent identified equally as both.

The study also said that the results mirror the observational study of school spirit.

This study found that women were more likely than men to display decals and clothing that said both CSB and SJU.

► See IDENTITY Page 6

*The role of sexism*

2007-04-19, The Record, p. 1

<http://cdm.csbju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/32864>

## IDENTITY

► from Page 1

but does not do the same for men," CSB Dean of Students Jody Terhaar said. "Men still seem fearful of being emasculated if they take on or accept that which is perceived as feminine."

As a result, she said, it is much easier and acceptable for women to identify with SJU than it is for men to identify with CSB.

### Separate institutions

Why are gender difference and inequality making such a splash on these campuses as opposed to others?

According to Bacon's article, it is the unique history and nature of CSB and SJU, which developed as separate institutions.

CSB was and still is structured to enhance the female undergraduate experience, while SJU does the same for men.

According to Kellom, upon the institutions' combining, the differences and inequalities that exist between men and women became very apparent, especially to women.

"Gender is often invisible to men, but women are reminded every day of their gender," he said.

A similar sentiment is echoed by Terhaar.

"Women are socialized to be attentive to relationships (between men and women)", Terhaar said. "Men have the privilege of not

"These findings are a result of a society that accepts and encourages the growth and expansion of women's roles on society,

having to think about them."

### The "S" word

According to Bacon, sexism plays a major role in the division between the campuses.

"Those participants who held more sexist beliefs were more likely to identify themselves as completely a Johnnie and not identify with CSB," she wrote.

Kellom agrees.

"Many men view their perspective as universal, but this is false," he said.

Kellom says that the sense of a hierarchal relationship where SJU is the "big brother" and CSB is the "little sister" has become comfortable and acceptable for many, especially for men.

Terhaar says that CSB is being subconsciously put down.

"For some, CSB asserting itself as an equal partner is perceived as threatening because they fear that this means St. John's will lose something," she said.

Bacon believes that this can change, and her study offers a solution.

"By increasing CSB's reputation in a spirit of cooperation with SJU rather than competition, (both) our students and institutions will benefit," she wrote. "In all the discussion and study about this subject it is important that the traditions and uniqueness of the two institutions is both preserved and appreciated, using our own Benedictine values as our guide."

2007-04-19, The Record, p. 6

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/32869>

# editorial

editor: jennifer mattson  
jmmattson@csbsju.edu

april 19, 2007 • page 10

## CSB 'Identity Crisis' misrepresents the CSB/SJU community

By Jody Terhaar  
jterhaar@csbsju.edu

I look forward to reading the Record each Thursday.

The March 29 publication covered many of the current issues being discussed on our campuses. The commentaries on the FRSM situation and the calls for civility and respect in how we communicate with each other were particularly noteworthy.

I continue to be dismayed, however, by the way the CSB identity issue is represented and covered.

By definition, the word "crisis" has a negative meaning and

connotations.

It is inaccurate to describe the work that President Baenninger and others are doing to strengthen St. Ben's identity and instill institutional pride as a crisis.

The successes and achievements of St. Ben's should be a cause for celebration.

It is erroneous and simplistic to present issues as a competition between the two institutions.

This approach implies that St. John's is somehow threatened, offended or "lessened" if St. Ben's strengthens and clarifies its identity as a unique institution.

Likewise, there seems to be a perception that St. John's being strong and clear in its purpose harms St. Ben's.

Both institutions and all students benefit when each individual institution is as strong as possible in all areas and shouldn't be restricted by the misguided idea that we must be the same in all things.

It is disheartening to see the great things happening at St. Ben's framed so negatively.

The recent stories about the four-year residency plans, workplace apparel and even the new dining facility were incomplete due to the way the stories were written.

The March 29 story about the new dining facility didn't have much depth and more could have been included to highlight the "state of art" design, the new approach to student dining and the incredible generosity of the Gorecki family.

It was a missed opportunity to cover a significant new building that both CSB and SJU students will be using.

The headline, "Dining discrepancies," was not only misleading, given the content of the article, but positioned the two schools in an "us vs. them" relationship.

Another example in the March 29 Record was the ar-

ticled about the changes that will be taking place in O'Connell's.

These changes are being made based on student feedback and are indicative of a commitment to meet the needs of our students.

O'Connell's will be open on Friday and Saturday nights, giving students another on-campus place to be on weekends, the menu is being expanded, and it is the only place in St. Joe where mixed age students can gather in a smoke free environment — this could have been the story, but a negative approach was taken instead.

It is a challenge to cover two campuses with a single news-

paper.

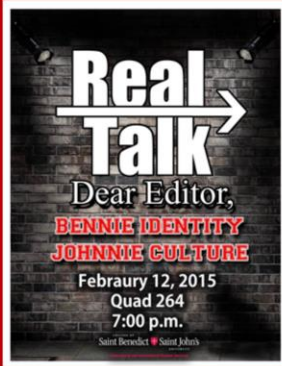
However, the solution isn't to present the two campuses as though they are the same. Each campus is unique and shouldn't be expected to be like the other or always measured against the other.

I hope that future stories about our campuses can truly reflect the value of our separate and joint identities.

— This is the opinion of Jody Terhaar, CSB Dean of Students.

2007-04-19, The Record, p. 10

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/32873>

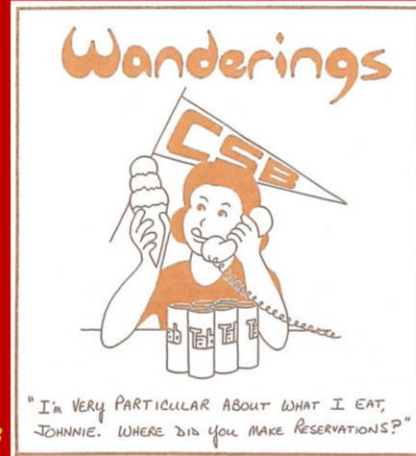


## Real Talk gathering in 2015

- The Lindmark letter backfired!
- There are three communities with “identities” – CSB’s, SJU’s, and CSB/SJU
- Bennies are more than “Ugg boots, buns, ice cream and yoga pants”

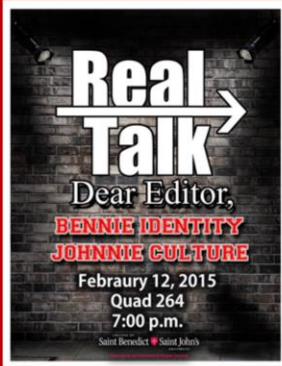
- Students encouraged to figure it out for themselves
- Understandably, the administration needs to be careful, and not offend alums
- Try to change the culture through FY Orientation

*The Record* October 6, 1978



Cartoon 1978-10-06, *The Record*, p. 12

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/35180>



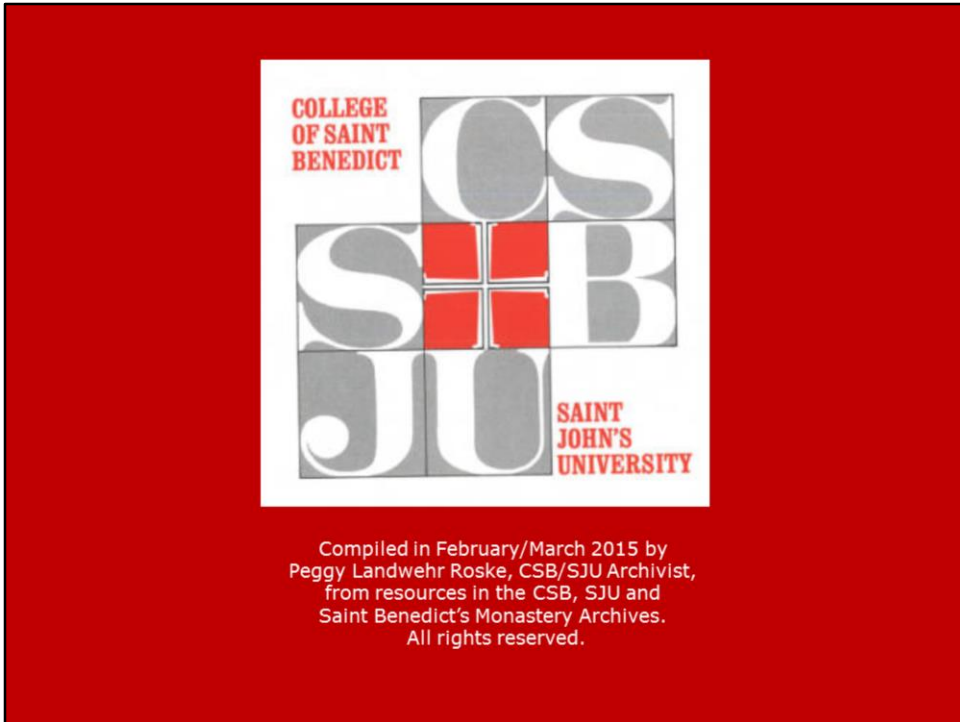
## Real Talk gathering

- Logo merchandise should be sold for both institutions at both bookstores



2007-03-22, The Record, p. 8

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33016>



1968-69 combined CSB/SJU Catalog cover

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/14749>

**Chronology: "Bennie Identity" dates (of flare-ups?):**

*2015 Lindmark Letter & backlash*

*1942 "Charm Week"*

*1942 Homage to Motherhood*

*1967 Bennie Slams & backlash*

*1968 Union? O'Connell*

*1969 Stan Idzerda's article & enrollment increase*

*1971 Firmin's piece on Interinstitutional Cooperation*

*1978 Budzien/Johnny Can't Relate & backlash*

*1994 Colman/Strategic Plan: Identity = Priority #1*

*1996 Thornbury's remarks at Convocation*

*2004 Women's Center is established*

*2007 "Identity Crisis"/Baenninger*

*2015 Lindmark Letter/Real Talk*