

TORCH 1987

No. 10
St. Munchins College
Students Magazine



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: I wish the 'Torch' Magazine every success and express sincere thanks to all those involved in its' production. It is a very worthwhile venture, and I hope it will receive continued support from all the students.

Very Rev. Michael Canon Lane.
President.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As Editor of 'Torch 87', I offer my sincere thanks to the following people, without whom the 'Torch' would be an impossible task:-

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Denis O'Brien.
Editor.

FRANK O'MARA

Editor: What were your feelings when you drove up the College drive today?

O'Mara: First of all, I never expect to be treated as anything special because I have won this or that event. I don't want my attitude to people and to life in general to change in anyway because of winning. I suppose I didn't really know what to expect first; but then, when I saw the T.V. cameras and the students gathered outside the main door, I could see what it was all about. I have often heard people accuse limerick people of having a tendency to 'knock' their own. I can truthfully say that I have found the very opposite to be true. Everywhere I went, I felt the sincerity of congratulations offered. It was especially nice to feel that here today - coming from the students and my former teachers.

Editor: Could I take you back to 1978? When you arrived in Arkansas for the first time, what was it like for somebody like you, coming from a relatively small school in a small city in far-away Ireland?

O'Mara: For my first year and a half, I ran badly there - about 5 or 6 seconds slower than I was running in St. Munchin's. I just couldn't seem to fit in at all. I came home in the summer of 1979 and I actually ran better than I had ran there all year but, when I returned, my times dropped back again. Eventually, it was a do-or-die effort and I realised that, if I didn't get my act together, I was going to lose my scholarship and return to Ireland.

Editor: So there must have been times during that stage when you regretted going out there at all - regretted not going to N.I.H.E. or U.C.C.!

O'Mara: I went out to Arkansas in August. By late September of that year, I was offered a place in U.C.C. to study Civil Engineering. I really thought long and hard about coming home then. Then, I decided to give it a full year - to give it all I had, and see how things developed. It was a difficult time for me but, what really made all the difference, was the fact that I had Niall O'Shaughnessy there to give me encouragement.

Editor: What was your first important victory there?

O'Mara: I suppose the Pen Relay (4 X 1,500 metres), which is probably the biggest relay race in the world (40,000 spectators). I won that in 1981. Then, in 1983, I won the All-American Colleges Championship Mile. Ronnie Delaney and Eamon Coughlan were the only other previous Irish winners. In 1985, I won the Fifth Avenue Mile, which is really the premier Mile race in America. (I beat Steve Ovett in that race). From then on, I was ranked in the top 12 milers in the world. I was finishing 3rd and 4th behind Coe, Cram, etc., but my times were improving all the time.

Editor: Could I take you back to the moment you crossed the line in Indianapolis - how did it feel?

O'Mara: It's kind of difficult to articulate it accurately. I just felt 'there you are, you've actually done it'. I think I was trying to reassure myself that I did do it. Of course, it was a very brief moment.

- Editor: You left St. Munchin's nine years ago. When you think back on your days in St. Munchin's, what do you recall?
- O'Mara: Well, maybe it came from being a boarder, but I always felt very proud of being there. It wasn't just the Athletics. St. Munchin's was always very important to me - I felt that I belonged to a group of great people - teachers and fellow pupils alike, from whom I learned a lot.
- Editor: Seeing you here today, winner of a Gold Medal and so on, many students would, no doubt, dream of following in your footsteps. What advice would you give them?
- O'Mara: Discipline, I think, is the most important factor. You have to ration your time so that you have sufficient time to train and sufficient time to study. Just because you want to excel in Athletics, doesn't mean you cannot excel in other areas. Very often, when I meet people, they are amazed that I have a University degree. They seem to expect that all you can do is run around a track. Running is just one part of my life and I don't feel that I have to or that I should neglect other areas of my life because of it.
- Editor: What about your future in Athletics?
- O'Mara: My main goal now is a 5,000 metres Olympic Medal in 1988. Of course, there is Rome and the World Outdoor Championships in September. I would like to win Gold there too.
- Editor: On behalf of the staff and the pupils, past and present, of St. Munchin's College, may I congratulate you on your outstanding success, and wish you continued success in the future.

CUTHBERT'S FIRST DAY

The sun shone weakly on that Monday morning, as something stirred in Cuthbert's mind. Then, it focused, and he remembered - 'Starting at a new school today - St. Munchin's (peculiar name that)'. Having leapt from bed with the grace of a mountain Yak, Cuthbert rinsed his eyes with warm water. Then, he began to sort out the uniform; grey trousers with mandatory 11 inch flares, blue shirt (surplus from original 'Blue Shirts'), strange tie, and blue jumper. Then Cuthbert called his mother and she applied the Baby Oil to his hair and combed it downwards on all sides. Then Breakfast - 1 egg (sunny side up, Mummy said), 1 slice of toast, and 1 tiny 'cindy-doll type' cup of tea.

Daddy summoned the 'Rolls' and off they went - not too fast, so as not to upset Cuthbert's stomach. Upon

arrival, a look of concern crossed Cuthbert's face as he noted the barbed-wire fences, armed guards and security dogs. But Daddy assured him they were to keep 'undesirables' out. (Cuthbert was later to learn that even 'undesirables' avoided St. Munchin's College).

As Cuthbert left the car, he wished he was home; then he noticed a game of Rugby in progress. The ball was of an unusual design so Cuthbert put on his glasses to focus. As his sight cleared, he realised the 'Ball' was human (well almost). It appeared to be a first year. This made Cuthbert glad he was a sixth year, even though most 1st years were taller than him.

When Cuthbert entered the doorway, he was grabbed by the hair, pushed against the wall, and he heard a voice

saying, "Carrying any weapons? Wearing full uniform? Where ya goin'?"

As soon as Cuthbert answered the Dean correctly, he was brought past the teachers (adorned in full riot gear with riot shields and C.S. Gas Cans) to see the President who greeted him with a manical smile and began to list the advantages of a good education and manners. When Cuthbert agreed, the President looked bewildered and asked what he was doing in St. Munchin's College.

During the first class of the morning, Cuthbert began to realise it wasn't just the students that were different - so were the Staff. This thought struck home when he saw a student being executed by firing squad for breathing too loudly.

During the next class, the teacher helped some students revise Theorems by putting matches under their nails and lighting them.

At 10.20, Cuthbert entered the back yard, where he was mugged twice, hit with a bone by a Boarder who was locked in combat with a dog for a polo mint.

During the next class, the teacher wore white leather and carried a pearl-handled .45 which she never failed to use on any student refusing to admit Seán O'Riordáin had excelled even Shakespeare.

At 12.20, Cuthbert entered the Dayboys Canteen. He lined up for tea and found it was only 10p for the cup; but, it was 50p for tea in it and 40p for sugar and £1.00 for milk.

Cuthbert heard screams of agony and looked over to see two priests with Nazi Arm-Banks flogging a student. He asked another student "Why?" The reply, "He asked for more tea".

During the Biology class, the teacher informed them they would be 'cutting open a new specimen' to examine its 'colon' - at once, all heads vanished under the table. Cuthbert suddenly realised why, when he was placed on the teacher's desk and he heard the click of the teacher's flick knife. Cuthbert ran for his life.

Alone in the cubicle, many thoughts raced through little, confused Cuthbert's brain - was he mad? Was he

going to die? Then, his mind cleared and focused on a line he had read at the start of Biology - "Survival of the Fittest".

Cuthbert emerged from the cubicle with spiked hair, no glasses, a self-inflicted facial scar, a fixed stare, a sleeveless shirt, and a headband made from the school tie.

Cuthbert entered the Business Organisation class just as Mr. Nesson was explaining 'How to embezzle and get your boss blamed'. He banged the door, let out a savage roar and sat down. No one messed with him after he threw the first six students through a window and shoved his hand down another's throat and pulled up his insides.

That day, as the 'Rolls' pulled up, Cuthbert pulled out the driver, ripped off the roof, smiled at the result and drove home. His mother began to fuss hysterically, but he slapped her and told her to get him a side of Beef and a barrel of beer. His father only smiled - Yes! Munchin's makes men of even the quietest mice.

O'Driscoll's Corbally Bar



*Congratulations St. Munchin's
on winning the "Junior Cup"
and best wishes in the
future.*

IN A LIFE TIME

Ever felt life is too long or too short; to help you measure your span of existence, here are some Life Spans from different ages.

Neanderthal Man	- 33 years (Taking "Live hard, die young" to heart)
Ancient Roman	- 36 years (Too many parties)
Medieval Briton	- 49 years (No parties!)
18th Century Philadelphian	- 45 years (Modern Progress?)
Early 20th Century American	- 60 years (Before Burgers & Obesity)
Modern Man	- 70 years (Before a certain modern plague)

STUDENT NIGHTLIFE

Picture, if you will, the scenario - a weary student arrives home on a warm Friday evening; with forced enthusiasm, he speeds through his homework. Time is moving fast. Quickly, he changes into his trendiest outfit, grabs a bite and stuffs his wallet in a jacket pocket and out the door - but, to where? Ever wondered where to go when the sun stops shining and the moon is out? If so, read on.

Tropics Nightclub: Located in the plush surroundings of The Royal George Hotel on O'Connell Street, 'Tropics' has a rather efficient glass collection service, friendly staff and relaxed security. Rating 9.2

Schooners (The Granary): If you enjoy the sensation of a close crowd and smoky bars, then you'll love this. Prices are reasonable, as far as night clubs go, and 'Schooners' is becoming the haunt of Limerick's younger trendies. Too bad about the reputation of the Bouncers! Rating 9

Club Marché (Greenhills Hotel): This used to be one of Limerick's foremost Discos, but things have changed and Limerick teenagers prefer to stay close to the city. Prices are a little high, but the lighting is quite good, as is the music. Rating 6

Poldarks (Two Mile Inn): Though small and far from the city itself, Poldarks is well-known and, for the most part, well liked, especially by the over 22's bracket. Prices, however, are very high - in fact, they are the highest in any Limerick night club. Rating 5.4

The Merriman: Popular with under 23's and highly rated as the place to be during winter nights. The Merriman's city-central location makes it easy to find and a meeting place for both city dwellers and even our country cousins. The atmosphere is friendly and fun-filled and well recommended. Rating 7.2

Costelloe's Tavern: Costelloe's is one of the Cabaret/Pub genre. Its' resident entertainer is the popular Jon Kenny. Costelloe's also features live bands during the weekends. Well worth a visit! Reasonable prices, and you're sure to meet many fellow students here, so you won't be alone. Rating 7

The Savoy: Famous for attracting big names from abroad, all two act plays here. The Savoy has plenty of space for all fans and they won't be all that hard on your pocket. An example of those who have played here is - Alison Moyet, Status Quo, The Damned, Light a Big Fire, etc. Rating 9.4

U2 - Band on a mission

U2 came from the Dublin suburbs on the north side such as Ballymun, Malahide and Artane. In 1972, Mount Temple College opened in Marino. Here, Catholics and Protestants sat side by side. It was here that Adam Clayton, Paul Hewson (Bono), Larry Mullen and Dave Evans (The Edge) met and formed their band.

Larry started the band by placing a notice on a notice-board; the others saw it and came to Larry's house that evening.

Larry brought drums; Dave, his brother Dick, who had a guitar, and Adam and Bono brought themselves. After a while, Dick left the band. They wanted some abstract name - U2 sounded good and so it was.

Bono was born early in May, 1960 and is now the singer/songwriter in the band. In the beginning, he wanted to play guitar, but Edge soon took the lead in that. They considered making him Manager, but he wouldn't stand for this, so he tried singing, and you know what happened from there.

You could call Adam a hippie when he started; he was known to go into school with a kilt on and, sometimes, nothing at all. He has improved greatly in playing the Bass. Now he can play it. He got Paul McGuinness as the band's Manager.

The Edge - a man of many angles, namely his chin, guitar and elbow. He was shy and watchful and usually unnoticed, but a genius with a guitar.

Larry liked to play drums - from the Artane Boys' Band to U2. He is quiet, handsome, and likes to wear denims and leather.

When U2 released 'Boy' in 1980, they went on their first major tours. They played America, in every club; it took many tours to conquer America, but in the end they did it.

U2 are still, to this day, probably the best live act ever. They completely take over the audience with their music. As for Bono - he could be found anywhere, from the stage to the balconies.

When 'October' was released, people didn't really think very much of it, and stated it was all about religion. It still earned the band their first silver disc. 'War' was released in March 1983 - the band got their first British Gold Disc. From that album, 'New Years Day' gave U2 their first Top Ten hit in Britain.

People wanted to hear U2 live; they recorded their first live album at Red Rocks in Denver on the 5th of June, 1983. It was a complete success. U2's contract with C.B.S. Island Records was nearing an end. Other companies made colossal offers to them to sign them up, but they stuck with 'Island' and are now made for life.

In September 1984, 'Pride' is released; shortly after 'The Unforgettable Fire' is released, and the group embark on the first leg of their world tour. From then, U2 have been very quiet here, only appearing at 'Self Aid' and Croke Park, June '85.

Now, after a quiet spell, they have crashed the charts with their new album 'The Joshua Tree' - dedicated to Bono's friend, Greg Carroll, who died in a motorbike accident. The four lads, U2, had found something they wanted to do, and so have purpose in their lives.

Ding-a-ling, it's half past eight
Up I get, or I'll be late.
Cup of tea in my hand
Drink it down and I'll be grand.
On my bike, and off to school
Won't be an uneducated fool.
Ten past nine, still not there
Wish I had legs like a hare.
In the door, I'm off the hook
Mr. McGrath, without his book.
Don my coat and take my place,
Teacher is delighted to see my face.

Hugh Brogan, Derek Whyte, &
Cormac Neiland.

Leaving Cert. 2.4

S.M.C - Through The Eyes of a First Year

Briskly, we make our way up the tree-lined driveway leading to a rectangular three-storied building - our school - spaciouly laid out and proudly displaying its motto 'Veritas in Caritate' over the portico of the main entrance. To the right and left, its parkland rolls down to the road. Cattle in groups, or alone, graze peacefully. To a city dweller like me, tired of the monotony of drab buildings, this beautiful, rural setting is like a breath of fresh air. Behind rises a range of hills - the Clare Hills - and, in the distance, we can notice the fields marked out by a network of hedges or stone walls, the shape of animals moving, or the curl of smoke rising from the isolated farmhouses in the early morning. How often have I envied their peace and tranquility.

It is Spring now in St. Munchin's College and, as we advance, we can't help noticing that the earth has begun to breathe again and to give new life to the soft green grass of the parkland and to the semi-circular bed of purple heather bordering the drive. Buds are appearing on the trees and there is a freshness and excitement everywhere. Birds are singing. Here, as everywhere else, Spring is calling to life all dormant things.

Though barely two seasons ago since I arrived here for school, it seems like light years to me. I was starting off on a new adventure to begin my first day in a secondary school, and I felt terrified at the prospect of the great unknown. The dull grey morning, as I well remember, wasn't very cheerful either, as the mass of grey clouds in the sky gave a promise of more rain to come; but, I did settle down and the teachers put us at our ease. It was completely different to primary school, with a wide variety of subjects and a different teacher for each. We have survived to the present because, in the struggle of evolution, our classmates and our teachers all played their part. A great bond of friendship unites us in Inter. 1.1 and we are fiercely loyal. We share our hobbies, as we do our disappointments. We have set up our own class library. We read a book a week and write a review of it. We also write a class diary, detailing all the major events of the week. This, we all agree, has been a very worthwhile exercise, as we see history unfolding before our eyes.

While everything, so far, in St. Munchin's has been praiseworthy, I have, however, one big gripe. While I realise that our school has a wonderful tradition in Rugby and Hurling, I still believe that Soccer could become one of our greatest assets in the sporting arena, and my one major moan is the absence of a school soccer team. It seems a pity not to have one as all other schools can boast of one. I feel that we in St. Munchin's are missing out on a sport in which we could really excel, for I have seen great enthusiasm among all classes, from first years to seniors, for the game. I earnestly hope that the President will, at least, give Soccer a sporting chance, and I would even dare to guarantee him that we would thrash any team that would dare to play us.

Declan Edwards.

Inter. Cert. 1.1

Poetry

1. CEDRIC CENTIPEDE

I'm Cedric the Centipede
If you could add,
You'd find out the number
Of legs that I had.
I move very fast -
I'm gone in a flash.
With so many legs
It's easy to dash!

2. DASHY THE DRAGONFLY

I'm Dashy the Dragonfly -
Swift is my flight
Over the water -
I'm soon out of sight.
Darting and flashing,
Whatever the day.
Oh! there goes an insect,
I really can't stay!

3. SEASHORE ANTICS

A crab was walking sideways,
An octopus said, "Why!
That crab is walking sideways,
I think I'll have a try."

A flying fish was flying,
A porpoise said "Oh, my,
That flying fish is flying,
I think I'd like to try."

4. CLEVER!

I am a clever sea lion,
And I can balance things
Like coloured balls and circus
stools,
And also rubber rings.

My Master, Joey, is a clown,
He taught me very well.
And now he says he's made some cards
To teach me how to spell.

Keith Russell.
Inter. Cert. 1.1

What sort of robbery is the easiest?

A safe robbery.

What goes up and down, but never
moves?

A stairs.

What did the burglar say to the
watch maker?

Sorry for taking so much of your
valuable time.

What runs but never moves?

A fence.

Teacher: "If we breathe oxygen in the
daytime, what do we breathe at night?"

Gracie: "Nitrogen"

What does a cashier in a police
station do?

He counts Coppers.

What's the definition of Copper plates?

Policeman's false teeth.

Customer in a hurry at a garage:

"Don't bother with the petrol, just
give me the stamps."

What's a twack?

Something a twain runs on.

Piano Tuner: "I've come to tune your
piano."

Man: "But we didn't send for
you."

Piano Tuner: "No, but your neighbours
did."

What holds five dozen keys but never
opens a door?

A Piano.

What's the definition of an
Archaeologist?

A man whose career is in ruins.

Where does Thursday come before
Wednesday?

In the dictionary.

Keith Russell. Int.1.1

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ed.,

I am writing about the Snooker Room. It was opened in 1982 and was closed the following year. I think this is an awful waste and I feel that, if a club was set up to look after this facility, there would be great interest. Who knows? There could be budding snooker champions among us here who are not being given a chance.

Yours Sincerely,

Jimmy 'Whirlwind' White.

Dear Ed.,

I am a first year student in St. Munchin's College. I have been a student in the College for only a short time and I am not yet accustomed to the holidays and days off. We have been told about half-days only the last class before lunch on some occasions, and I think that this is very unfair.

I suggest that the Principal issue a notice at the beginning of the year with all the holidays included. If, for example, we are getting two weeks holidays for Easter, then the dates should be made known in advance. At least a days prior notice is required for half days.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Moore.

Dear Reader,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr. McNamara and his assistant, Mr. Begg for their excellent training of the U-13 team this season. They brought us together, most of us never having

played Rugby before, to be one of the best teams in Munster. This season we played seven games, only losing one, drawing one, and being victorious in in the rest. The teams we defeated were Young Munsters (twice), Roscrea, Crescent Comprehensive and Garryowen. Against P.B.C., we had the most difficulty, drawing with them and losing to them. Our Captain for most of the season was Brendan Halpin, and Anthony Foley lead us twice. Once again, we thank Fr. McNamara and hope he can lead next year's under 13's as successfully as he lead us.

Yours,

The Team.

BLOOD SPORTS

'God save the hare', because only God can save this creature when he is put against big greyhounds that are blood-thirsty. It seems inevitable that the hare will die and it is up to the anti-bloodsport committees to do something about it.

It is disgraceful that ordinary people actually pay to see this highly unfair contest. Besides this, even if the hare escapes, he is still captured and used again in another battle between hound and hare.

This is a horrific and a gruesome affair which, to anyone who has seen it, is totally unacceptable. I believe, and I am sure I speak for lots of other people as well, that the government must be partly to blame. How can they sit on their laurels and do sweet nothing about it. Surely, if they have any heart, they will take a closer look and, hopefully, ban it. Does man not care about the creatures of this world today?

David Sutton.

Inter. Cert. 1.2

To be fair to St. Munchin's, there is a wide variety of sports in the school. But, the pupils of St. Munchin's are not always happy and, to be fair to them, many facilities are not used to their full capacity. For example, there are a lot of pupils in the school who are interested in Swimming and would like to see a Swimming Club being formed. No one can say we haven't got the facilities for this.

Another example is the snooker room, which, at the moment, is only open to Boarders. This is not right; dayboys should also be able to use this facility after school.

As regards field sports, Rugby cleans up, followed by Athletics, and Hurling is a poor third, and even with all these games, some pupils are still not satisfied. Some would like to see a soccer team emerge from the school and why not? We have the facilities and we definitely have the talent. These are only some of the ideas which we would like to look into.

Michael Whelan & Kurt Divito.

Leaving Cert. 1.3

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Introductions to Profiles

Pat Ahern: Pat is a grim and taciturn student. It has been known to brighten up, though, whilst committing ritual human sacrifice in the dark hills of Kilmallock. He hopes to be a hangman when he leaves Munchin's.

Seán Hannon: Seán is one of the more rabid supporters of S.M.C. He has often had to be dragged, foaming at the mouth, from the stands at more lively St. Munchin's matches.

William Walsh: What can we say about Willi! This burly, hunk of a man is noted for his noble looks and cheeky grin. His interests include tap-dancing and weight-lifting, as he is presently 'in training' for the 'World Alligator Wrestling Championships'. Good luck, Will!

Edward McSherry: Eddie is a very jovial sort of chap. He is known for his love of nature and his interest in Greek philosophy. There is no truth in the rumour that he wishes to become a florist after the Leaving.

Brendan Connelly: Living in Ballinacurra, Brendan is one of the brighter students in 6th year. He hopes to go on to third level after leaving school, or become a brain surgeon.

Jim Phelan: Jim is from Castletroy. His hobbies include Windsurfing, and picking up as many girls as he can in his van. Jim also enjoys dying his hair. After leaving school, Jim hopes to take over the family business.

Seamus Twomey: Seamus is a boarder from Bruff. He has been a member of the Senior Rugby Team for the past three years. Seamus' hobbies include talking to Mr. Madden, and Irish Dancing. After leaving school, Seamus would like to play Rugby with Ireland.

Gerry Doyle: Gerry is a member of this year's Senior Rugby Team. He is noted for his very large chest.

Ron Hogan: Big Ron is easily picked out in a crowd because of his great laugh, which can be heard all over the College. Ron also enjoys Yorkie Bars. After leaving school, Ron hopes to follow in his father's footsteps and become a petrol-pump attendant.



I.J. Bluett: I.J. is the youngest member of this year's L.C.II class. I.J. hails from Effin and is fluent in that distinctive Effin language. I.J. enjoys playing Snakes and Ladders, Ludo and many other intelligent games. His ambition is to be 4 ft. tall when he leaves school.

Eamonn Doody: Eamonn is well-known for his 'scruffy hair and short, butty legs', and hails from Monagh???. His hobbies include rugby, hurling and swimming. He hopes to get enough points for 'Banana-picking' in Venezuela or, failing that, Law in Trinity College.

Cathal Cremen: Cathal, affectionately known as 'Boy' has his roots firmly planted in Port Laoise now. When he is not on the run, Cathal enjoys hurling, rugby and going 'home' on Sundays. Cathal's ambition is to achieve equal rights and walk on the right side of the corridor.

Thomas Kelly: Tom, known to all as the 'duster-boy' is our 4th prefect and, it must be said, is a shining example to all students. Tom's hobbies include hurling, snooker and getting his maths right. Tom's ambition is to work in the city, as a set of traffic-lights.

Justin Foley: Justin (Ollie), who hails from 'somewhere', joined us in 1985. Justin holds the most coveted position on the 'Jax Committee' - next to the King. Justin enjoys playing rugby.

Conleth Dillon: Conleth, the 'Abbeyfeale Amoeba' is easily recognised by his tightly-shaven head. Conleth has recently been elected as 'Athlete of the Year', but hasn't been able to take time off from training to accept it yet. His ambition is to be chief tester with 'Fisher-Price' toys.

John Connelly: Not many people know this, but John is a naturist. He has often been seen dancing, naked, in the long grass behind the school, with flowers in his hair.

Gerard Hogan: Ger is a sadist and a bully boy. He enjoys nothing more than picking on weak, defenceless things. When he leaves Munchin's, he hopes to become some rich woman's plaything.

Neil English: Neil is a holy student. During the lunch-break, he always goes to the chapel, takes out his rosary-beads and prays. Neil hopes to become a monk after leaving school. His hobbies include visiting his friends in school.

Fergal Grimes: Fergal hopes to become either a C.D. teacher or a Shuttle test-Pilot (to the sun!). His middle-Eastern features have landed him in trouble when applying to fly for Aer Lingus.



Kevin Coughlan: Kevin is one of the few students in the College who wears flares. Once a free man, he wants to live at Stonehenge.

Jason Moran: Jason, the dude, hopes to become the coolest person in all of Patrickswell. He enjoys dancing to Shakin' Stevens and Bucks Fizz in his spare time.

William Mulhall: Somebody told William a very good joke when he was gurgling in his cot which has kept him amused since and has cultivated in him a desire to become a song and dance man.

Brian Cormican: Brian has nursed the People's Army of Irish Leprechauns from its' embryonic stages, and will lead it to battle with the super powers. If he does not, he will settle for a life selling junk jewellery.

Philip Hayden: Philip, both athlete and brain, is from Corbally. When he leaves, he hopes to go to University and be utterly brilliant at whatever he does.

Bernard Liston: Bernard is a secret devotee of the Hare Krishna faith and will go on after school to shave his head, wear orange robes, and collect money.

Alan Barry: This is one of the few Leaving II poets. Alan often gambols through the fields, picking flowers, and composing free verse about the butterflies and the trees.

Paul Barry: Paul has come out of the closet and admitted to being a Dire Straits fan. Well done, Paul, we say - we still love you anyway. Paul is one of our seventh years.

Michael Cooney: Michael is a rare crossbreed of Boarder and Dayboy - a dayboy farmer. He has confided to many that he wants to be just like George Michael and sing songs like "Na, Na, Na, de da de da de da" to his heart's content.

Larry Bluett: Larry, from Effin, is keenly interested in plants and hopes to be reincarnated on earth as a buttercup. In the meantime, he would like to become one of Santa's helper-elves at the North Pole.



Robert McKillican: 'Magilly', 'Bob', or just Robert, lives in St. Joseph's Street, and usually pedals his way to the College. He tries to play Rugby and that is why he has failed as a good player. He believes that "if at first you don't succeed, try and try again, and again, and again" and, because of this, we can't get rid of him.

Noel Halpin: Noted for his big hands, Noel comes to us from Kilmallock and it's a disaster if he claps you on the back - you would swear he was trying to make you cough your stomach up. Noel has been described as class angel but corridor devil. He thinks he's good at Rugby (no harm in thinking).

William Boohan: Willy comes from Fedamore (or is it feed 'em more - he needs that alright) and, if you think you saw him before, you're right; he's a boarder and also a repeat. Another reason you'd have seen him before is because he is a 'Bond Girl' and has often been seen wrapped around SEAN CONNERY.

Shane Phelan: Responsible for writing a quarter of this year's Torch profiles, Shane is vacationing in Libia (Torch-funded, of course) to escape the wrath of some appreciative L.C.'s. Shane hopes to become an Industrial 'Mad' Chemist in future decades, reacting zee azid vith zee bass (guitar).

James Cronin: A member of the Boarding Fraternity, 'Danny' is known far and wide for his vocal agility. His expertise and service was rendered during 'Joseph & His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'.

Declan Bennett: Declan spends his time in the Study Hall campaigning against Apartheid and fighting for 'Black rights'. His room is adorned with posters of Nelson Mandela.

Anthony Coleman: Mild, meek and shy sum up Anthony's character to the core. His idea of paradise is a quiet and peaceful corner where he can take out his books and study. Big into the 60's scene, Anthony has particular interest in the "Animal's" music. Following the Leaving, Anthony hopes to take over from Fr. Fitzmaurice and teach his own version of Applied Maths.

Emmet Graham: Emmet is telling nothing about himself this year except that he likes good food and wine, B.M.W.'s, happiness, lots of pretty girls, listening to "old hat" relaxed music including Van Morrison (preferably whilst in a reclined position) the odd bar of chocolate (and reckons Liverpool will rise again to conquer Goodison next year).

Aiden Barry: It's been said that Aiden comes from Clonlara, but he won't tell you that. A true dude, Aiden wanders through the corridors of life at a 'handy' pace and hopes to spend his time after Munchin's surfing in Florida. He is also completely bullet-proof.

Greg Iynan: Greg comes from the Mill Road but still denies he's a snob. Quite capable of destroying the world, Greg can't wait to get out of S.M.C. and have a go. He likes sport and has been seen to do great things with a basketball. An ambitious sort, Greg won't be happy until he's conquered the world.



Ger Harney: Ger comes from somewhere out around Dooradoyle and is interested in most sports, mainly Rugby and Soccer, but has lately taken a liking to Basketball. He has been accused of being a 'swot' and has retaliated by stating that on leaving S.M.C. he plans to do anything that does not require too much thought, as he's as thick as a concrete block.

Paul O'Brien: 'Paulo' comes from Granville Park and is big into 'faggot music'. His hero is Jimi Somerville, and he hopes to replace him in Bronski Beat after his Leaving Cert. He is a genius at Maths and is in a position to buy Heroin for £10 a gramme on O'Connell Street (poor fella!).

Jimmy Williams: Jimmy comes from the li'l ole U.S. of A, but presently resides (wow!) in Clarina. He is into Karate and is the top French student (yes, this man studies without a french book). He hopes (or intends) to return to Uncle Sam for his 3rd level education (Ireland's loss is America's gain-huh,huh!)

Derek Whyte: Derek hails from the infamous Granville Park. His interests include sports and talking at 70 ml/hr in a perfect Limerick accent (no offence, Derek). His academic achievements include his unpredictable smart comments from the back of the class, which have earned him the place of being Pat Cross' favourite pupil (eye, eye).

Paul Kinehan: Despite the general thought, Paul claims not to be a 'suck' - he prefers the name 'stud' and is often not visible, due to him being mobbed by St. Mary's girls. He is into Basketball and Computers and hopes to do Accounting after S.M.C.

Tom O'Farrell: Tom lives in Wolfe Tone Street, Limk and enjoys throwing stones, rocks and boulders at 'Fish'. He likes music and hopes to pursue a career in straightening out vain people like 'Egg'. He has become a familiar face in the Chemistry Lab, & as he hasn't a clue how to do experiments, just goes around examining everyone else's results.

Seán Liston: Seán, one of our representatives on the Munster team, hails from Coolcappa. He is a boarder and, when on probation, raises dust on the bareens of his hometown in a self-made automobile.

Michael Kennedy: 'Mickey' from Castletown is a big name in S.M.C. Hurling (he provides the round of applause each time the opposition scores). He is this years' 5th prefect and is the main bell-ringer, though he's not always on time. He has a pair of fine strong legs and is often seen limping around after being in a scrum with Sr. Reginald.

Thomas McMahon: 'Couche' has been described as a computer maniac, which shows that this little boarder from Castletown isn't as dumb as he looks. His wild and unmatched hairstyle has made it possible for him to have the sole right of not wearing a helmet in his favourite sport - Hurling. Has this man got horses' ears?

Kevin Fitzpatrick: We wonder what is behind that 'iron grin' of his. Described as being the most popular 6th year. When he leaves school, he hopes to get a job on the next James Bond film set (as Jaws, of course). Funny! I never knew Jaws was mod!



James Crowe: James is the No. 1 contender for the 'dirtiest bicycle of the year' award. In fact, the make of James' bike still remains a mystery. He seems to collect every ounce of dirt and litter on the road as he 'flies' to and from Clonlara. He hopes to be a hair-stylist when he leaves school.

Kieran Irwin: Having encamped in Munchin's after fleeing from Ballingarry, this student managed to hold a 'Happy' prospective of life, without it interfering with his hobbies, which are mostly concerned with spheres. He likes all his subjects equally

Pat O'Callaghan: Pat is forever practising Meditation - this activity has even spread to the classroom, especially during Pat's less favourite subjects. When not in a deep trance, Pat stamps around the corridors, causing everyone to cower in fear.

Larry O'Connor: 'Bomber' - this boarder is a rugby tactics expert - Larry has invented more dirty tricks than a whole six generations of 'Christians' Hookers. When asked to describe Larry, the opposition, and team alike, cried 'Mad'.

Robert McConkey: 'Bobby' resides in Annacotty and came to S.M.C. in September 1985 to help us through the teething problems of Leaving I; since then, he's been described as the 'jack-ass' of Leaving Cert. He is the head of the McConkey trio and says he isn't the root of all evil, despite his love of stonefighting, in which he hopes to take a 3rd level degree.

Martin O'Donnell: 'Beaker' came to us from Charleville in October '85 and we've been experimenting with him since (well, Mr. O'Shea has anyway). He hasn't many hobbies but, with a mind of his own, and a willingness to argue till dawn, he managed to scrape a position on the debating team that lost to St. Mary's. He has been described as the 'smiler' in L.C.II.

Michael English: 'Bearla' is a boarder and also the one and only 3rd prefect. He comes from an unknown village called Bulgaden, and claims he's not woman-mad(liar). He tries to play the guitar, sing and be generally jolly, but has failed all along the way.

Gerard Keane: Ger lives just a stone's throw away from St. Munchin's College and, because of this, has a boarded window in his house. Ger has become famous for his teacher impersonations.

Jimmy O'Brien: This quiet little boy comes from a far-off land called Croom. He is known to most as 'Jimmy Click' and waits for the day of the trial for the Munster Linesman's team. He is one of the many boarders in the college, but prefers to think of himself as a live-in dayboy. (Good wan, Click!).

Tom Fitzgibbon: Tom is a boarder who comes from Askeaton, and is an avid spectator of Rugby; he can't play because he gets a kind of 'stage fright' if he passes the sideline, so a chair has been erected for him at the centre of the field. Tom prides himself in his ability to make substitute teachers feel at home - at his home.



Anthony Murphy: Anthony is renowned for his long weekends and his buzzing energy on Monday mornings. Some say it's the Lynda syndrome; others believe it's his hectic study routine.

Patrick McPhillips: Pat would like to see a greater diversification of sporting activities in the College. He is especially interested in St. Munchin's College Tug-of-War team, where he feels he would have a good chance of becoming the anchor-man.

Thomas Neligan: This quiet, shy person is noted for his skill on the Hurling field, and his love of chemistry. His hobbies include Hand-gliding, pot-holing, and anything with a challenge. There is no truth in the rumour that he is still in mourning over the "O'Farrell's fire".

Kieran Delaney: "Dillon" is another of our repeat students. He is interested in Arian literature and socialising. There is no truth in the rumour that he enjoys wearing ladies undergarments.

Niall Sheehy: Niall is a very 'easy-going' sort of chap. His hobbies include include skiing (backwards), writing poetry, and growing a 'designer smig'. At present, Niall is building a Banana boat and, after the Leaving, he intends to sail to Jamaica in search of his fortune or something.

Brendan O'Callaghan: 'Woga' is a very serious and level-headed person. He is the President of the Pioneer's Club. His ambition in life is to make the 1st Atlantic crossing in a beer barrel.

Niall McGrath: Niall is known for his 'Boot-boy' look and macho image. His interests include gymnastics, reading and stamp-collecting, and occasional mugging. He intends to pursue a career in Gardening after the Leaving.

Cormac Neiland: 'Sett', as he is known, is known for his sarcastic comments. He never has a good word to say about anyone, but himself. His pastimes include Music, and socialising in Scariff. Also, his singing ability is well-known in Leaving Cert. II. 'Sett' is also very 'grumpy'.

Daragh Mulrooney: Daragh speaks with a characteristic Irish brogue, which he has been practising every since he left Canada. Daragh spends long hours at his favourite pastime, housed in an exotic building near the priest's wing, from which he hopes to emerge, eventually, with a body like Madonna's.

Trevor Lewis: Trevor is a defector from Árd Scoil Rís. His main interest is in Genetic-Engineering and his ambition is to create the perfect replacement for the Staff and the President.



Denis O'Driscoll: Denis is from Corbally and hopes to go on to third level. There is no truth in the rumour that Denis is lead singer with Twisted Sister.

Stephen Tobin: Stephen is from Raheen. His picture reveals nothing about his personality. He is really a shy, retiring type. His ambition is to find the person who stole his bike.

Pat McDonagh: Pat is one of the bigger students in the school. Pat hails from Corbally and has a keen interest in Biology.

Rory O'Connor: Rory is well-known to students and teachers alike for his great academic abilities, especially Maths and Irish. Rory hopes to become a buffalo-hunter when he leaves school (in 6 years time).

Thomas Fox: Foxy is a member of the 2nd Senior Rugby team. Tom is a Boarder from Kilmallock and enjoys getting his face smashed up on the rugby field.

Niall Hayes: Niall, from the Abbey, is a keen snooker player and has won many competitions in Limerick. Niall's other hobbies include Soccer and Rugby.

Peter O'Callaghan: Peter is the most avid and fanatical mod in the College. He is one of the founder members of the B.V.S.C. (Scooter Club). Peter hopes to go on to third level.

Hugh Brogan: Hugh was voted best-looking pupil in the College last year (by himself). He is known for his attendance in the study hall. With so many choices, Hugh is hoping to get a part in 'Chips' as "Ponch", and become a male model.

Pat Moloney: Pat joined us last year from St. Flannan's. He enjoys Maths, Linda, and fast cars. After leaving school, Pat hopes to get a job in Dunnes Stores.

Barry O'Shea: Barry hails from Summerville. He is a keen soccer player and can be seen lining out with Regional. His main hobbies are slagging people and impersonating the teachers.



Fergus Quane: Fergus hails from Broad Street and is interested in music of all sorts. Fergus enjoys going to concerts with his girlfriend. He also enjoys the occasional bath. After leaving school, Fergus hopes to become a fashion designer.

Michael Galvin: From Woodlawn Park, Michael is noted for his unusual hairstyle. He is very interested in the Irish language and hopes to pursue a career in Engineering? There is no truth in the rumour that Michael still loves Nuala Kearns.

Michael Murphy: Michael is from Monaleen and is the best barman in Limerick. Murph enjoys football and hurling, and hopes to run his own pub - with Ma Hogan's in mind!

Martin Corcoran: Martin is from Raheen and is noted for his studying in the canteen. He has not yet decided what he would like to do after leaving school, but he has a lot of options open to him.

Anthony Frahill: Anthony is the most lively and active pupil in the school, especially on Monday mornings. He wants to be a grave-digger when he leaves us, but his mother wants him to be a brain surgeon.

Brian Ahearne: Brian, known by all as 'Fish', had an inexpensive nose job in the course of the year. Known for his scooter-bashing antics in the front yard, Brian's ambition is to invent a scooter which can overtake Denis O'Brien's motorbike.

Peter Tomany: Peter wanted to be a hippie this year, but Fr. Lane prevented him from doing so. Peter's examination results are an inspiration to us all, and we feel that he will certainly achieve his ambition to become a Wizard.

Des Adams: Des is one of the many Boarders who complains about food, except he isn't complaining about the quality, but the quantity. Des hopes to become a jockey; failing this, he intends to breed and race his own Shetland ponies.

Paddy Hayes: Paddy is St. Munchin's wild man of rock. He frequently does the hot night-spots in Croom, wielding his trusty guitar.

Donagh O'Shaughnessy: Female hearts flutter and lace curtains twitch when Donagh walks down the street. When Donagh leaves school, he hopes to get the leading part in 'Bosco-the Movie'.



John Forde: A Boarder, a Prefect, and a Winger - in between all these activities, John finds time to give Biology grinds in St. Mary's, test-drive Dinky cars, and give the Staff a hand to organise various classes.

David Hanly: Having somehow found his way from Askeaton to Munchin's, David took a keen interest in the human skeleton from 1st year. He claims his greatest feat is to have spent the last five years without losing his smile. David hopes to become an orthopaedic surgeon.

Denis O'Brien: Our cool, clean hero, Denis, makes his presence felt each morning as he 'rocks' the school with vibrations from his super bike. Denis' ambition is to form his own Motorcycle gang and go on to rock the world.

Keith Flanagan: Avid member of the Springsteen Cult and founder member of the Parteen Brick Throwers Association. This shady character has a sunny smile, which he compares to Don Jonson's. His hobbies include watching T.V. programmes like Miami Vice, and emulating his hero, Rambo.

Enda Finn: Well-known for his fondness of children, Enda hopes to become a Paediatrician; failing this, Enda will work as a Boxing Instructor for any Primary school. Until then, he is inventing a special woolly hat for Goldfish. He hopes to pursue a career in Bionic Earmuff manufacturing.

Damien Flynn: Travelling from Castletroy each morning, this marathon man is rather famous among attendants of N.I.H.E. for his wild parties and rather unusual goings-on at weekends.

Stephen Fitzgerald: Steve is noted for his Arnold Schwarzenegar look, and his love of the 'uniform'. He wishes to design a replacement for the bicycle clip; failing this, he will donate his body to Veterinary Science.

Feargail O'Callaghan: Feargail has a dual personality complex. By day he is a quiet, diligent student; at night, a wild party animal, who is barred from more Night Clubs than Boarders have had cold dinners.

Ger Galvin: Ger's a member of this year's Senior Rugby team, and is one of the prefects. His ambition is to become a hairdresser in Peter Mark's.

Tim McCarthy: Tim is a boarder from Ballingarry. He is one of the few punks in the College and hopes to go on to third level.



Ken Barrett: Ken thinks he's quite, superb and reckons we should think so too - a self-proclaimed master of everything. Ken's played and won them all. He was also a member of this year's senior team. Ken looks forward to a wonderful career in anything and an even better retirement.

Declan Edwards: Declan comes from Castleconnell, a fact of which he's deeply proud. A member of this year's senior rugby team, Ireland missed his services (due to a slight injury, or so he says). A grand old bloke in every respect, whose interests range from anything to everything, most of which cannot be published.

Kieran O'Gorman: One of our more social and athletically-active members, Kieran is in actual fact, the complete all-rounder. Munchin's answer to Seve Ballesteros and Corbally's answer to Alex "The Hurricane" Higgins, Kieran is fantastic at everything he lays his hands to. Oh, my God, I'm going to be sick.

Michael O'Connell: One of the two refugees from Milford, Co. Cork, Michael has excelled in Debating - both official and unofficial. Rumour has it that Michael is a prominent member of the College Pioneer Movement.

Brendan O'Connell: Brendan, the younger member of the O'Connell clan, has been assigned the task of looking after 'big brother', i.e. he polishes his shoes and does his homework.



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SPORT SECTION

The annual school 'Skipathon' was held in November. This is the second year the 'Skipathon' has taken place. It was a very successful event, with most of the students from Inter. I, II and III taking part. Altogether, £1,048.26 was raised for the Irish Heart Foundation.

The 'Skipathon' itself promotes skipping, which, in turn, promotes the increase in cardiovascular fitness and promotes the lifelong benefits of regular physical exercise. It is also a great tool for students to develop better balance, fine and gross motor co-ordination, physical endurance, locomotive skills, self confidence and, at the same time, HAVE FUN!

The pupils who won prizes are as follows:-

Winner of Track-suit:	Richard Coughlan	Inter. 2.3
Winners of T-Shirts:	John Daly	Inter. 2.4
	Declan Forde	Inter. 2.4
	Niall Harris	Inter. 1.1
	Barry Hogan	Inter. 1.3

Many other minor prizes of cash, biros and pencils were won by pupils from each class. I hope that the 'Skipathon' will be as successful in the coming years as it has been these past two years, and that more and more students and future students will be encouraged to take part.

Our thanks to Mr. O'Friel for organising the event and encouraging the students within the school.

Gary Jackson - Inter. 3.2

ATHLETIC'S

This year again has been another successful season for the cross-country athletes. The minor team, consisting of Anthony Foley, Niall O'Donoghue, Raymond Kinsella, Ian Moore, Tony Nolan, Jason McAllister, James Herbert, Stephen Cleary and Paddy Madigan, and the Juniors Tom Nolan, Eddie Cronin, Jason Murphy, Cathal Fitzgerald, Robert McNamara, Ian Sutton, Emlyn O'Connell and Paul McCarthy, all had a good race, which was held in Dungarvan on Saturday, 14th February. But, it was the Senior Team that shone, winning the gold medal.

Conditions were excellent for the race. The winning athletes were:

Stephen Murphy, Seán O'Connor, Thomas Carroll, Risteard O'Flaherty, Anthony Murphy, John Broderick, Declan Walsh and David Ryan. This win qualified the team for the All-Irelands.

This championship was held in Mallusk, Co. Antrim on the 7th March. Weather conditions were terrible, with many athletes in all the races having to drop out because of the cold. Despite this, the team had a brilliant race and took the bronze medal.

These successes were mainly due to the help and coaching of Mr. Declan O'Donoghue, who gave us a lot of his time preparing us for this cross-country season.

Senior Rugby

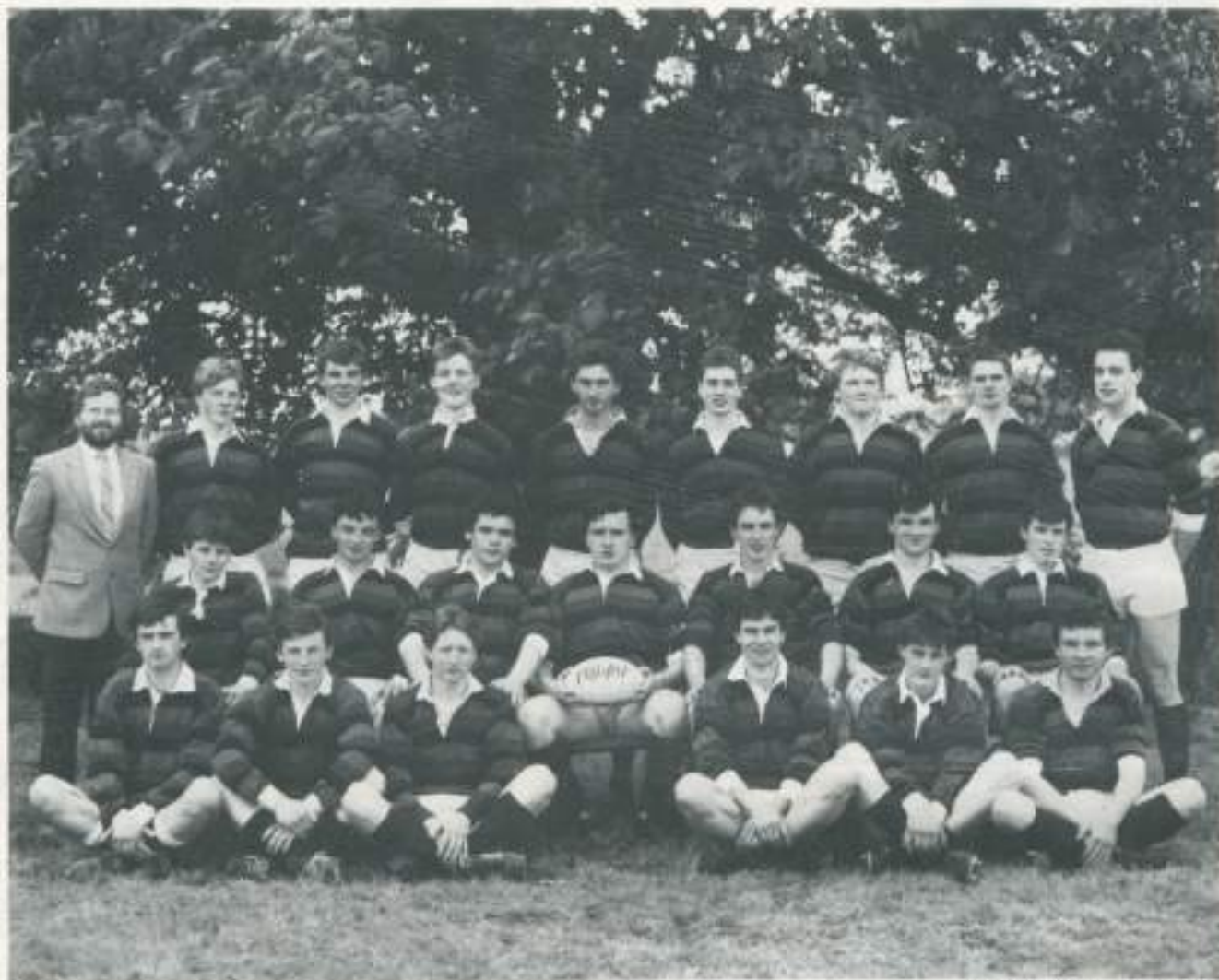


Photo-Niall Igleston

After opening the season with comprehensive wins over teams like Crescent, Rockwell, and Pres.(Bray), there was high expectations and great enthusiasm for the cup campaign.

As a reward for our great start, we made the long journey north for the highlight of the season with a trip to Dungannon to fulfil this highly entertaining annual event. Even though we lost the match, it was a very memorable weekend.

A successful run of 'friendlies' and City Cup matches had us well prepared for the Cup and, on 15th February, the school moved south to Cork to take on the pre-cup favourites - Pres. After storming into a 9-0 lead, a historic cup victory looked to be on the cards. However, it was not to be, as Pres. fought back and, in the end, the

eventual cup winners beat us 20-9.

Finally, the Panel would like to thank Mr. Madden for a very enjoyable season, and all those who gave their time and know-how to help out. We would also like to wish our Captain, Seamus Twomey, all the best in Australia.

Team: Back Row: Mr. Dermot Madden, R.McKillican, R.Hogan, D.Edwards, P.Coleman, K.Barrett, J.McCarthy, S.Liston, K.Foley. Middle Row: J.O'Brien, G.Doyle, G.Harney, S.Twomey (Captain), Seán Liston, K.Coughlan, L. O'Connor. Front Row: A.Coleman, G.Galvin, J.Forde, C.Cremen, N. Halpin, E.Phelan.

JUNIOR RUGBY

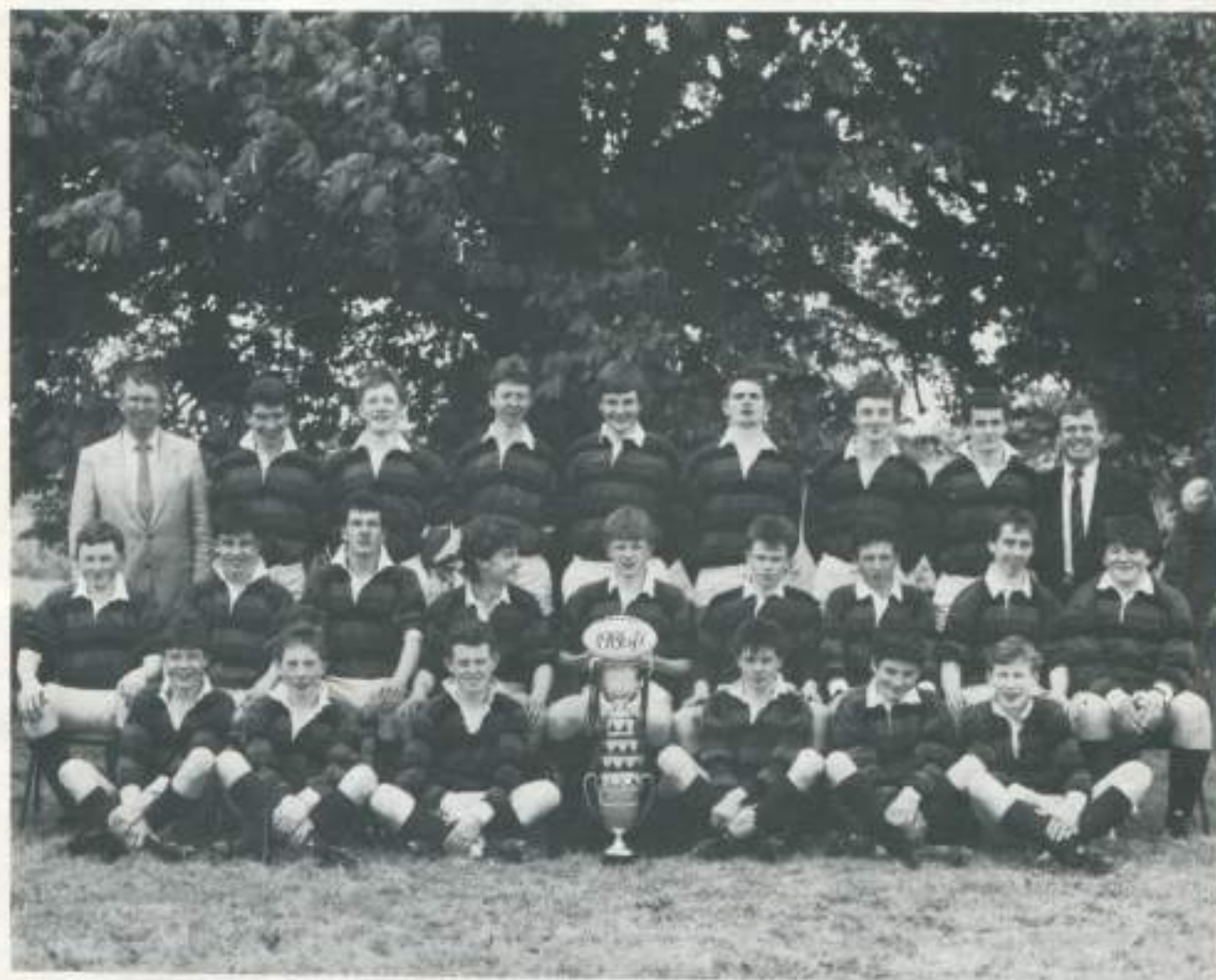


Photo-Niall Egleston

On the 25th of March, the Junior Cup returned to St. Munchin's for the first time since 1970.

A strong panel was assembled by Mr. Cross in September and, it was clear from the start, that this team would be very hard to beat. In our first match, we played Roscrea and ran out convincing winners 36-0. Soon after this, the city cup came round and we were drawn against Ard Scoil Rís in the semi-final. We won this match 38-0 and we went through to meet Crescent in the final. We beat them 10-3 in a very hard game. In the meantime, we travelled to Dublin to play Leinster Cup favourites - Terenure. We conceded two tries early on and eventually we went down 11-4.

After the Christmas break, we travelled to Dublin to play St. Andrews

U-16 team. The final score in a very hard game was 10-10. We were drawn to play Glenstal in the 1st round of the cup at Thomond Park. We ran out convincing winners in a very one-sided game. The final score was 48-0, with Tommy Moran scoring four tries, Seamus Liston scoring two, Darren Hartery and Jimmy Neville scored one each. Dave Sheehan scored one try and converted five tries. After this match, we lost the services of our full-back, Dave Sheehan, through a knee injury.

We were drawn to play P.B.C. in Cork in the semi-final. Our forwards piled on the pressure during the first half, but the score, nevertheless, was 0-0 at half-time. The breakthrough came twelve minutes into the second half, when Brian Clancy intercepted and raced

away to score. Our second try came straight after the restart - this was a brilliant effort, scored by Tommy Moran. The score remained 8-0 until the final whistle. This was, without doubt, the sweetest victory of the whole season.

We had now qualified to meet cross-city rivals, Crescent, in the final. So, on the 25th March a huge crowd gathered in Thomond Park to see if we could bridge the 17 year gap and win the Junior Cup for only the second time.

We won the toss and chose to play against the wind in the first half. Crescent scored a penalty in the 7th minute and the score remained 3-0 in their favour at half-time. But, fifteen minutes into the second half, Brian Clancy scored a brilliant try in the corner, to give us a lead of 4-3. We had to endure several anxious

moments before finally clinching victory in the third minute of injury time, when James O'Riordan scored a try after a tremendous run by Seamus Liston. Pádraig Keane added the points to make the final score 10-3. The cup was on its way back to Munchin's.

The team scored 398 points during the year and only conceded 113 points. There was some great individual scoring feats achieved during the year, notably Tommy Moran's, who scored 34 tries in a season of twenty-two matches.

On behalf of the team, I would like to thank the following people for their time and effort; the Under-16 team, Mr. Jim Brislane, Mr. John O'Kane, and especially Mr. Pat Cross, who trained us throughout the year.

HURLING

Although 1986/'87 wasn't the best season enjoyed by St. Munchin's on the hurling field, we did field four teams throughout the year.

Our Senior team, captained by Ger Galvin, after a good challenge with St. Flannan's, contested the first round of the Keane Cup against Charleville C.B.S. After a hard contested game, we lost by one point.

In the 'Corn Phádraig' Munster competition, we played the eventual All-Ireland champions - Shannon Comprehensive. Despite good individual performances, we were well beaten by a very good Shannon side.

St. Munchin's Team:- M. McCormack, C. Cremen, P. Dowling, W. Mulhall, I. Kelly, N. Monahan, L. O'Connor, G. Galvin, B. O'Connell, R. O'Flaherty, J. Wall, L. Bluett, T. Neligan, M. Whelan, P. Mannion, M. O'Connor.

The U-15½ team were defending the 'Corn Iognaid Rís' trophy. Having defeated St. Brendan's by a wide margin, we faced Mt. Sion in the second round. The Waterford side proved too good for us on this occasion.

Team: J. Wall (Captain), M. McCormack, J. Maher, M. O'Connor, P. Dowling, M. Whelan, P. Keane, T. J. Bluett, B. O'Shea, J. Haslam, I. Pearse, I. Dawson, G. Healy, L. Banks, L. Kelly, P. Horan, P. Hannon, P. Mackey.

Finally, in the O'Mara Cup, our U-14 hurling team made a brave bid against Hospital at the start of the season. They trained hard and were in contention up to the last ten minutes, but Hospital were the stronger finishers. Kevin Ryan gave an exhibition of good goal-keeping.

Team: D. O'Shaughnessy (Captain), J. McNamara, M. Geary, R. Holland, N. Browne, M. Galvin, K. Ryan, B. Cunningham, A. Foley, B. Halpin, N. Hearne, P. Gilbourne, N. Lynch, W. Cooke, D. Murrihy, J. Murphy, G. Yelverton and G. Costello.

We would like to thank Fr. Fitzmaurice for his invaluable training and encouragement throughout the year.

Eamon Doody.

U-16 RUGBY

Our gallant men, under the leadership of our trainer, Mr. O'Kane, started with hope after an unlucky season before. Our first match took us to Rockwell and the unfit Boarder majority of the team, who were half-starved by the new laws that were passed, brought the team down to a bad standard and we lost 16-4 as a result. This did not, however, effect our spirit and, after a lovely meal in Rockwell, we next had to face Christians at home in St. Munchin's.

The effects of the meal had not yet worn off and the game was 0-0 at half-time. Then, in the second half, they came at us and beat us 15-0, much to our regret. After this, we were depressed and few wished to face those half-barbarians -Pres., but our trainer mustered us up again and we decided we wanted revenge for the previous year. We went out on the field together and we came off, one by one, after making 'history'. As far as our records show, it was the worst defeat Munchin's ever had, going down 56-0.

Martin Roche.
Leaving Cert. 1.3

U-13 RUGBY

There was a great turnout this year at the U-13 Rugby training sessions. We were under the expert guidance of Fr. McNamara who trained us, hail, rain or snow. Our first match was against P.B.C. The game was played in treacherous conditions. It wasn't a very enjoyable game, and this was reflected in the scoreline, the final score being 0-0. Some notable victories were against Garryowen, Young Munsters, Crescent Comprehensive, and Roscrea. Anthony Foley led the 'A' team, and David Sutton led a very strong 'B' team. The victors of the 1st year class rugby were Int. 1.3 who beat Int. 1.1 12-6 in the Final. We had a great season and are looking forward to much success next season.

I would like to thank Fr. McNamara on behalf of all the players for all his time and his help in improving us and leading us to success.

Jeremy Leonard.
Inter. 1.1

BASKETBALL

The main achievement in Basketball this year was when the U-15 team came second in the "St. Nessen's U-15 Blitz". Thanks to the superiority of Mark Gallagher (Captain) and Paul Connolly, the main scorers, the U-15 team beat the Scarriff 'A' team in the semi-finals, only to be beaten by St. Nessen's in the Final.

The U-17 and U-19 teams got to the semi-finals of the Limerick Schools' League. These matches have yet to be played. Both of these teams were dominated by the skill of John O'Brien and Bobby Price.

On behalf of the teams, I would like to thank Fr. Frank O'Connor and Canon Lane because, without their help (and driving abilities) we would never have survived.

Paul Kinehan (Trainer)
Leaving Cert. 2.2

Rugby Action



TORCH DIARY 86'87

1986

2nd September

The beaming face of Fr. Lane welcomes back the glum throng to yet one more year of "getting down and doing their work".

8th September

Leaving One crawl back to school and St. Munchin's throbs again as a single unit.

30th September

Leaving One bounce out of school after getting their Inter. Cert. Results and the rest of the school joins them in making merry.

2nd October

Having failed in their attempt to make the Nissan Cycle Classic and the Inter. Cert. Results coincide, Munchin's gives another half-day.

24th October - 3rd November

Joy in the student body as it leaves for the Midterm Break, to collect nuts and go to dinner dances and do other Hallowe'en things.

13th November

The 'Concern' Debate against St. Mary's provides the St. Munchin's Debating Team with an excellent opportunity to show what good losers they are.

25th, 27th, & 28th November

Younger students skip to save the World.

30th November

The Senior Rugby Team clumps away to Dungannon and plays in the fields.

3rd December

Leaving II's realise their evil ways and attempt to reform themselves in a one day retreat.

19th December

The exams, which had been breathing down our necks for the past month, eventually lunge in for the kill.

23rd December - 13th January, '87

Fr. Lane, in seasonal good cheer, awards the school three weeks of holidays.

1987

2nd January

Thirty hardy S.M.C. students trundle away to the ski pistes of Austria.

14th, 21st, & 29th January

Sackcloth and ashes are the style of the day as Inter. Three ooze away, mumbling psalms, to their retreats.

15th February

Students of the college stumble, grief-stricken, from Musgrave Park, after losing their shot at the elusive Senior Cup.

25th February

Today, St. Munchin's Junior Team butter Glenstal all over the pitch and dance gleefully on the remains with hob-nailed boots.

11th March

Another pilgrimage to Cork and another victory for the Junior Team against P.B.C.

Score: 8 - 0

13th March

To happy squawks from the students, Fr. Lane gives another half day.

18th March

Students flock to get their faces on film as Frank O'Mara returns to Munchin's.

Decent Frank does some deft arm-twisting, resulting in a half-day.

19th March

Walking past the Study Hall, the hum of busy Inter. III's is distinctly audible on the first day of the Pre-Inter. exams.

20th March

Leaving II enjoy a similar fate to Inter. 3's experience yesterday.

25th March

No greater nick has been marked on the St. Munchin's post this year than this, the Junior Team's 10-4 victory in the Junior Cup.

26th March

St. Munchin's shuts its' doors and the revelling continues for this free day.

30th March

Unease amongst L.C. II students as they anticipate the horrors of this week's oral Irish exam.

6th, & 7th April

Just when you thought it was safe to speak English again - Oral German exams.

8th April

The last of the Pre-Leaving exams for the, by now, weary L.C. II students.

9th, & 10th April

Select members of Leaving II stutter their way through the French Oral exams.

10th - 27th April

The long term grinds to a halt and the holidays begin.

Peter Tomany.

Leaving Cert. II

STAMP CLUB

This year, the Stamp Club won the 'Windsor Motor's Trophy' once again. As this cup is an All-Ireland cup, and we only lost this trophy twice, this year we were asked by Fergal Quinn and 'An Post' to organise a few things to promote Stamp-Collecting in Ireland. We were very willing to do this, only we hadn't the necessary facilities or space, as, this year, we were demoted from our room on the third floor to a wardrobe on the second floor. Here we were broken into twice and paper stolen, so it has to be locked up most of the time.

At the start of the year, we decided to hold an Exhibition in the school hall. We got permission from school authorities. We spent many weeks organising and fixing up details with 'An Post'. As the date drew near, we were told by school authorities that it couldn't be held during school hours, only after school or at the weekend. Firstly, it couldn't be held after school because forty 'hopeful' invitations would have gone out to schools and the crowds would be too big. Also, 'An Post' weren't willing to come down from Dublin for two or three hours. We asked the Prefects to fight for our cause but, no hope, to the disappointment of 'An Post' and the schools who knew about the Exhibition. It was cancelled.

Some good things happened this year. We held a Stamp Competition with Laurel Hill and everyone had a great night. It was an exciting year.

We would like to thank Fr. Frank O'Connor for his help during the year.

Kevin Reardon
&
John Gallagher.



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SKIING TRIP

At 6.00 a.m. on 2nd January, '87, thirty pupils from our beloved College gathered to get on the bus to take us on this year's skiing trip. Our journey by bus brought us to Belfast, from where we flew to Salzburg via Luton. We arrived in our comparatively luxurious hotel at around 9.00 p.m.

The next morning brought unexpected and welcome surprises. Not only were we in a snow-covered paradise, but we also had 34 members of Croft House Girls School from Dorset, England.

The ski resort was excellent, with great facilities and both interesting and friendly instructors, who were actually from Australia. Quickly, we progressed from beginners to experts in just one short week.

The skiing was exciting and filled with amazing incidents. Fortunately, nobody was injured, but exhaustion was a regular complaint.

Night-time activities were varied and great crack. The teachers proved a mighty force at bowling, while many found going down the tobogganing course, without using the sides as brakes, pretty hard. Discos enabled us to make great friends with the pupils from the Girls School and so everyone was feeling really depressed when we left.

We had an excellent holiday and we would like to thank Mr. McNamara, Mr. Reid and Mr. Lillis.

Seamus Clarke.

Teacher's Lottery Money

Ever since the details of the Irish National Lottery were released a few months ago, there has been a lot of excitement all over the country, with people dreaming of winning the 'Grand Prize' and thinking of ways to spend it.

Because of this, we the 'Torch' Committee, decided to approach the St. Munchin's teaching staff to find out how they would spend the 'Grand Prize' of £250,000. Our intrepid reporters, Kevin Fitzpatrick and Denis O'Brien, crept up behind Mr. Cross and put the question to him. After much contemplation, he replied "I'd retire, have a massive champagne party, buy Nesson O'Donoghue's car, and move to the south of France", so let's all hope he wins.

When I approached Mr. O'Grady he looked me straight in the eye (he was standing three steps above me) and replied, "I'd buy you a school shirt and a jumper with the proper crest on it"; at that, I quickly departed.

Denis approached Mr. Conneely whose answer was short and sweet "I'd retire urgently and happily."

Next, we asked Mr. O'Kane, who, being his usual elusive self, replied "No idea at all".

We caught Fr. Noonan just outside the door to the staff quarters and asked him what he would do with £250,000 to which he replied, "I'd give it all away." When asked to whom, he said "I'd give £249,000 to charity and spend the rest on L.C.2.3 (Maths)!"

We also asked Fr. Pat O'Connor. His reply was also "I'd give it all away." (Strange people the priests).

Good Study Guide

1. Don't cram facts: read the title of the chapter and 2 or 3 lines, then invent facts.
2. Avoid EXCESSIVE STUDY: 4-6 minutes per week is enough, as too much study causes memory loss.
3. Avoid Late Nights: go to bed early in the morning.
4. Approach ALL exams with an air of confidence: question your oral examiner to avoid them testing you.
5. Be ECONOMICAL with the truth when answering poetry questions about your opinion of the poet.
6. Anything you can't spell, blotch with ink.
7. Add footnotes to Physics answers - explain that your theory is as valid as the next: after all, you might be the EINSTEIN of the '80's.
8. Remember you can use technology to aid you in Maths Exams, so use some initiative - whilst others use a calculator, bring in a computer.
9. Use bribes to find out the content of exam papers in advance: failing this, resort to the time-honoured tradition of "Cogging".
10. Failure to follow the above procedure could result in a pass - so, be careful!

TRUE FACTS

A German Magazine Survey showed that one in every five West Germans urinated in swimming pools. Those in Kassel and Nuremberg were the worst - their pools had 6 fluid ounces of urine per 35 cubic feet of H₂O.

India has recently outlawed a favourite pastime of husbands - Bride Burning. Up until a few months ago, it was legal to burn one's wife.

Most popular places to hold-up in the U.S.A.:- Commercial Banks-10 per day; Savings & Loan Associates-5 per day; Mutual Savings Banks-1 per day and a half, and Credit Unions-1 every two days.

A man tried to rob a U.S. Bank. The cashier placed all the money in a special bag, the type that explodes and sprays red dye around the place. The man stuffed it down inside the front of his trousers and ran out the door. Then, it blew up ...

A citizen left his job after a nervous breakdown, brought on by the stress of working with Blacks. He got workman's compensation. The city must pay his medical expenses and he must get back-pay to 1983; and, he is getting \$231.47 in weekly disability funds. Who says Racism doesn't pay?

Werewolves / Vampires

How often have you turned on the T.V. or Video to witness a hairy face with canine features with the shape of a man, and later wondered - Do these things exist?

Long ago, man believed in the Were Wolf; if fact, he even had ways of finding which humans were the dreaded Werewolves. One way was to cut them open and look for hairy insides; another involved a Drowning ceremony.

Today, man has discovered the Wolf People to be but a victim of strange and rare physical and mental diseases.

Lyantrophy, commonly known as Wolf Madness is a rare and very severe mental condition, which causes people to act like wolves (eat raw meat, howl at moons, etc!) whilst retaining their human form.

Hypertrichosis: This is a genetic disease where the sufferer grows abnormal amounts of hair all over the body. These people were often used in freak shows as Wolfmen.

Some famous documented "Werewolves":- Jean Grenier of 17th Century France, an un-named but highly studied Navajo

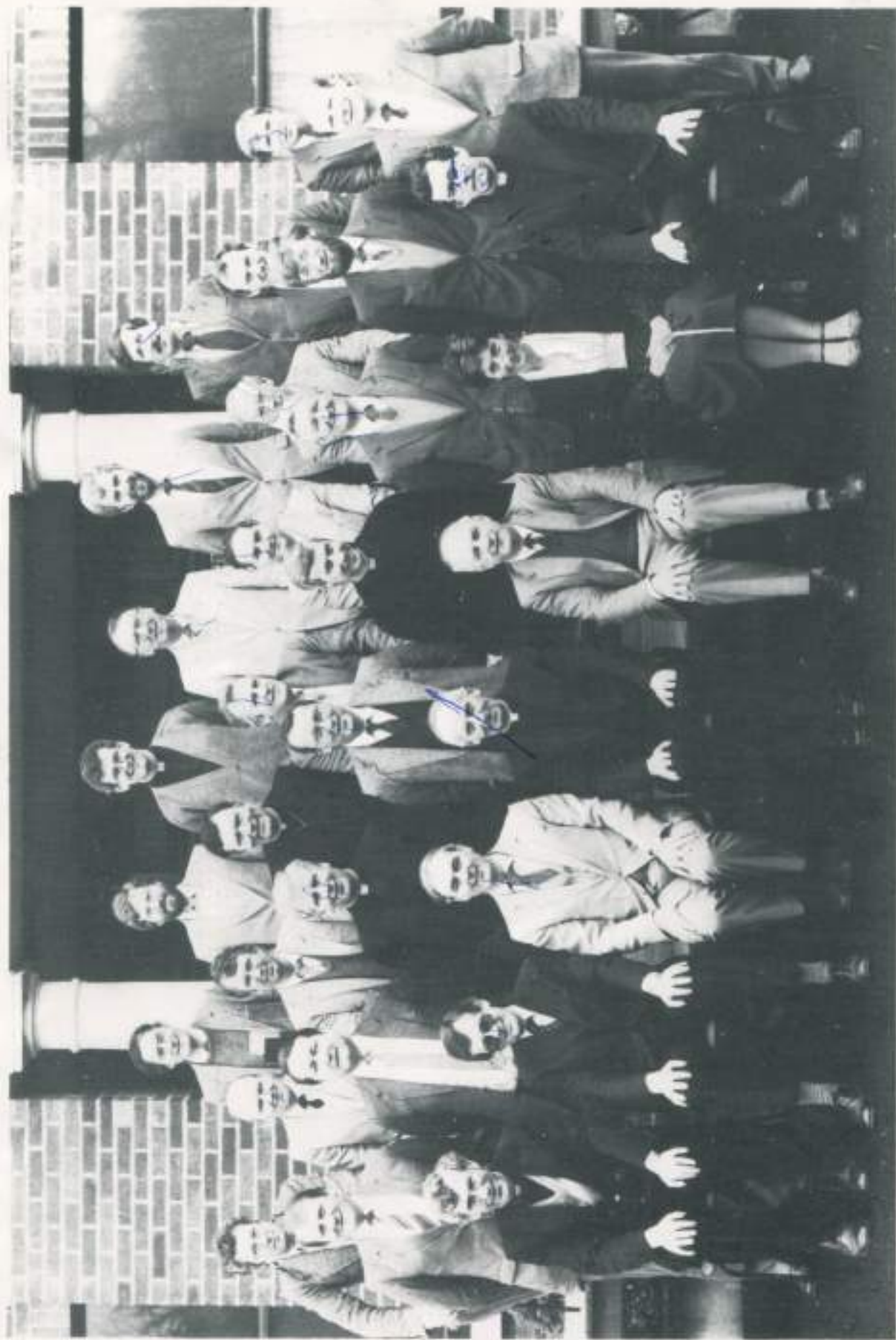
Indian in 1946. Then in 1957, a Werewolf jumped through a glass window two stories up into a nurses hostel.

Then, in 1975, a 17 year old killed himself due to Metamorphosis. Many others were also recorded.

The Vampire Legend is mainly due to Congenital Porphyria, which is a rare blood and skin disease, where the victim grows long hair and his eyes develop an exceptional brightness, his teeth become reddish brown and ulcers form, disfiguring the face and hands. The victims also become allergic to sunlight and begin to blister and suffer incredible pain in the light.

The only way to 'Fix' their blood condition is to drink more blood, to prevent the vital components and Iron fading out. Strangly, they cannot use garlic as it is one of the plants which causes the process.

The sufferers may only go out at night - in most countries, they used to take the blood from cows or horses; however, some did prey on people, in the belief they were Vampires.



College Staff '86-'87



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