

the collegian



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Proposed Governance System

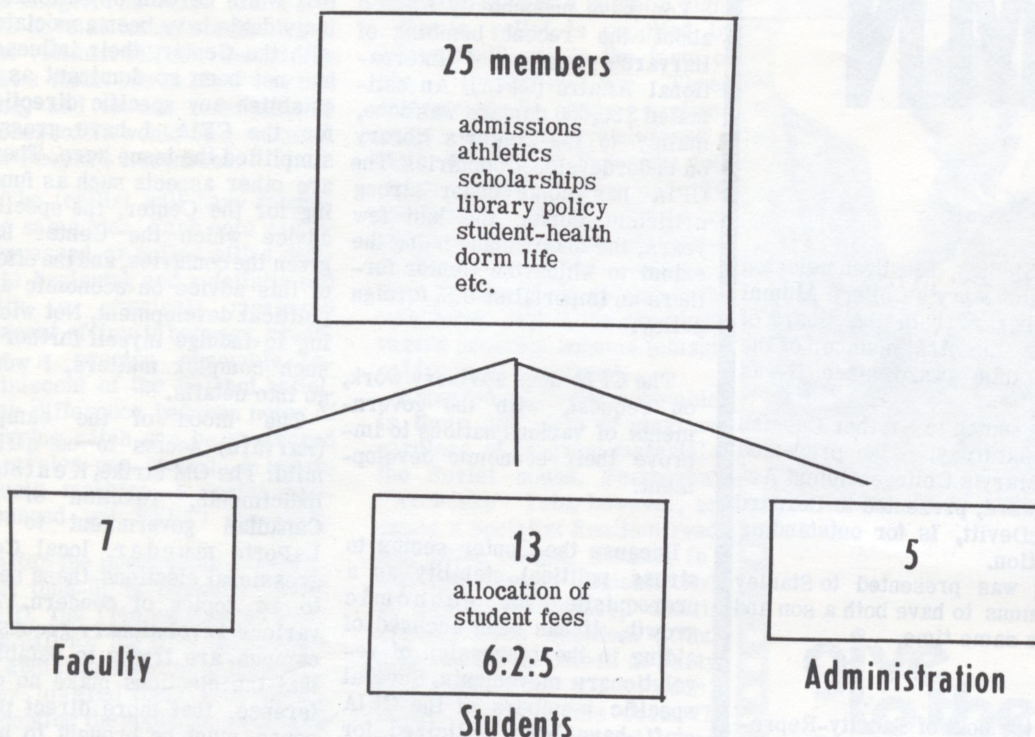


DIAGRAM OF PROPOSED GOVERNANCE SYSTEM above shows how each campus constituency would elect representatives to an all-College Board of Governance. Diagram by Irving R. Feldman.

SPECIAL REPORT:

Governance Board Explanation & Reaction

To establish a new form of governance for Saint Mary's College may very well be an impossibility. Two weeks ago, The Collegian offered a suggestion to create an all-College Governance Board. The Board would combine all the functions now operated by a myriad of special committees on three levels: student, faculty, and administrative.

Believing the present system of policy-making and management to be inadequate, The Collegian suggests the following concrete program for consideration:

PROPOSED BOARD EXPLAINED

An all-College Board of Governance of 25 members would be elected from the three constituencies: student, faculty, and the administration. The students would elect 13 representatives to the Board; the faculty, seven; and the administration, five. Each "constituency" would arrange for a democratic method for electing its representatives. For example, the student constituency might decide to elect six of its 13 representatives on a dorm-oriented "ward" system; another two representatives would be elected by the day-students; and the balance of five representatives would be selected "at-large." This method would allow student interest groups (e.g. the BSU, MECHA, women, athletes, YR's, YD's, etc.) to elect representatives through the ward system or the at-large system.

The faculty might want to select its seven representatives all at-large. The administrative representatives could be selected by an election or appointed by the President, Brother Mel Anderson. If appointed, repre-

sentatives might be selected from important administrative offices (e.g. the Dean of the College, Dr. Alan Pollock; the Registrar, Rod Arriaga; the Vice-President, Brother Jerome West; the Controller, Allen Holloway; the Dean of Students, Odell Johnson; or the Dean of Admissions, Peter Mohorko.)

POWERS

The Governance Board would have the power to set policy needed for the day-to-day operations of the College. The power of the Trustees would not be diminished, but rather they would be freed from administrative management to engage in deeper policy questions. The admissions standards, athletic policies, scholarship awards, allocations to academic departments' operations, library policy, student-health policy, dorm life policy would all be handled by the Board's sub-committees composed of representatives. Subcommittees need not necessarily reflect the same 12:7:5 ratio, since interests differ.

The power to allocate student funds would be retained by the representatives of the student constituency, working more efficiently than the current Executive Council since they would be unhampered by other business. The faculty constituency would vote on rank and tenure as a committee-of-the-whole, in consultation with student and administrative advice.

WORKING EXAMPLE

The State University of New York at Binghamton (SUNY/Binghamton) began using just such a system of governance this semester. After a period of discussion, the three constituencies voted in a referen-

dum last spring to adopt a "University Assembly" similar to the Collegian's proposal. Although SUNY/Binghamton has 5,000 undergraduates (their Assembly has 100 members in a 55:32:12 ratio) the validity of the idea does not seem to diminish with an increase in size.

In a telephone interview with an editor of The Colonial News (Binghamton's student paper), Collegian editor Peter Detwiler learned that the New York school's Assembly is proceeding well and contributing to coordination of policy-making and administrative management. The Colonial News reports that their President, Dr. Dearing, claims the adoption of the University Assembly presents a "big hurdle cleared" in efforts to create an "adaptive and contemporary" form of university governance.

In future weeks The Collegian will report more information about its proposal.

Reactions

—MIKE SNIDER

Interviews of representative members of the administration, faculty, and students follow. All were sympathetic with what Dr. Frankel has termed "the spirit and concern manifested over the lack of communication within the present governing system"; however, many questions arose concerning both the lack of specification in The Collegian's article and the feasibility of such a system.

Brother T. Mel Anderson, President of the College:

Brother Mel immediately called attention to the fact that the Trustees, the major policy

makers of the college, were not included within the proposed plan. The ambiguities of the article, were hit upon by Mel: "I do not know what they are talking about." As an example, Brother cited the editorial sentence, which stated, "Study-groups come and go without leaving much influence..." Mel responded that "The SPAN people certainly left an impression."

He agreed that more district contact is needed between campus organizations: "The Executive Council operates in a vacuum." For him, the article leaves several things unclear, such as, the level of functions within the proposed system. Apparently, the assembly would be bogged down in issues ranging from rank and tenure to dances. "There is no use convening a large group for something that can be handled by a smaller group," Mel maintained.

Not dispelling the proposal altogether, Brother Mel advised that specific plans be worked out and a meeting be held to discuss them.

Dr. Raphael Alan Pollock, Dean of the College:

Immediately noting that the Trustees had not been mentioned in the article, the Dean asked whether they would be included. Moving on, he stated, "The intent is sound... however, feasibility is another question." Pointing out difficulties in implementation of the system, he said that those with the most authority would have to be persuaded that it would be of advantage to the College to share their power.

Dr. Pollock added other practical difficulties, one of them being that the students have had problems in getting together within their own government. It might be asked by some, how could students want more authority when there is so much disorganization among them now?

"A lot would depend on the willingness of students to come together and work towards such a consensus, although the burden is not just on the students." The Dean proposed that representatives from the administration, faculty, and students should meet to see whether a board of governance would be fruitful.

"I do feel that if the community could get itself together, and share the governance of the college, in reasonable trust and mutuality, it would be a much better college."

Brother Jerome West, Vice-President:

Brother Jerome felt that the Collegian's proposal was much too vague. "I do not know what they are talking about," was his overall reaction. "I do not know what kind of university is at Binghamton... huge campuses have problems different from Saint Mary's." Brother found that The Collegian did not explain the reasons for their change. Furthermore, he felt that such words as "governance" and "widespread displeasures" were much too general. Like Brother Mel, he questioned the levels of function within such a system.

Dr. Benjamin Frankel: Head of the History Department:

"I am in accord with the SPIRIT of the concern manifested. I firmly believe in an approach to problem-solving by all sectors of the community - students, faculty, and administration." Speaking with a faculty member's viewpoint, Frankel agreed that there were problems with the present system. "The Academic Council is not an effective body. Its function is ambiguous... At the moment, they have proved to move on some issues and have not on others."

Dr. Frankel would like to see the proposed system work. His question is one of implementation. "Will the faculty, students, and administration entrust decision making to the representatives and abide by the decision - that is the crux of the problem."

Dan Wolfe, senior government major:

Dan sees that the key to the adoption of the proposal is the idea of communication. "It is simply obvious that there is inherent unorganization present in the existing system of student government. The adoption of this form of government at Saint Mary's would bridge a gap and bring about a more creative response instead of operational negativity. I feel that only a drastic revision from top to bottom would produce the needed representative commitment... I am hopeful that discussion related to the proposal will be in the mind of the college community."

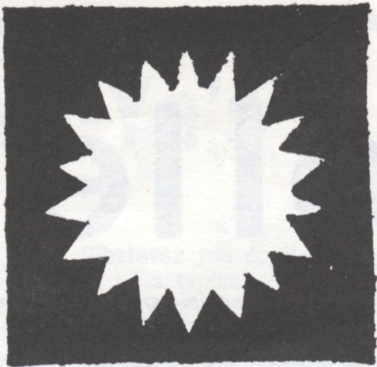
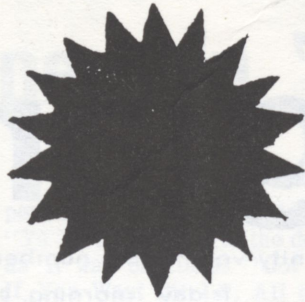
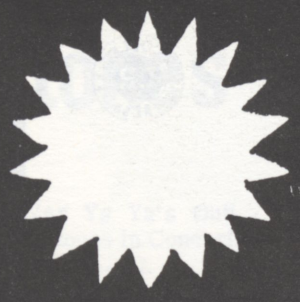
John Blackstock, President of ASSMC:

Blackstock feels that a board of governance could facilitate problem-solving.

Continued on page 2



DR. ALAN POLLOCK SMILES at daughter Kate, now a Saint Mary's coed. Photo by John Blackstock.



NEWS COLUMN

Alumni Awards

Brother Cassian Frye, FSC, Dean of Studies, has been selected as the Alumnus of the Year by the Saint Mary's College Alumni Association. Brother Cassian, a member of both the Board of Regents and the Board of Trustees, is the first member of the Christian Brothers Order to receive this award since it was established in 1959.

The Alumnus of the Year award was presented to Brother Cassian during the Homecoming festivities last Saturday. Also presented at this time were a pair of the Saint Mary's College Alumni Association's Signum Fidei Awards. This award, presented to Bernard Cummins and Brother W. Matthew McDevitt, is for outstanding participation in the goals of higher education.

In addition, a certificate of merit was presented to Stanley Gilliam. Mr. Gilliam is the first alumnus to have both a son and a daughter enrolled at Saint Mary's at the same time.

Frankel Elected

Benjamin Frankel has been elected to the post of Faculty-Representative-At-Large to the Rank and Tenure Committee. This election resulted in a tie last week. It is also the last of the faculty elections for the near future.

109 Forms

The standard procedure for the Registrar's office in processing SSS109 forms is to have male students file the form at registration. Once study cards have been filed, the 109 forms are compared with them to verify fulltime enrollment, and then the 109's are forwarded to the State Director of the Selective Services System in Sacramento, to be distributed to the individual local draft boards. The above procedure was followed, on schedule, by the Registrar's office this term. Draft counselling available from Joe Sheridan, DLS-305 or John O'Brien, W-120.

Midterm Grades

All faculty assigning optional midterm grades this fall must have the grades reported to the Registrar by 3 P.M., today, October 30. Students' copies of grades will be available from the Registrar's office on Tuesday, November 10.

Students are suggested to check their reports carefully, since these reports also serve as a double-check on final course enrollment. Only grades of S, D, F and NR are given at midterms.

January Term Preregistration

The 1971 January term will run from Monday, January 4, through Monday, February 1, with classes beginning on Tuesday, January 5. Preregistration forms will be available in the Registrar's office Monday, November 2. Filing of pre-registration forms in the Registrar's office is as follows: Monday, November 9, SENIORS ONLY; Tuesday, November 10, Juniors may begin; Wednesday, November 11, Sophomores may begin; Thursday, November 12, Freshmen may begin. Any student may file after his class opening date, and Friday, November 13 along with Monday, November 16, have been left as filing dates for all. Pre-registration closes at 3 P.M., Monday, November 16. There will be a \$5 late pre-registration fee on all January term pre-registrations after this date. Pre-registration will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

During the week of November 2-6, students should contact instructors of courses for which the instructor's consent is required. No student will be allowed to pre-register for such a course without the instructor's signature on the form. Any student planning an Independent Study project for the January term may secure the necessary forms AT ONCE from the Registrar; all such students must still file a regular pre-reg form during the assigned pre-reg period, indicating their choice of Independent Study, and have the instructor's signature. Two regular January courses must be listed as alternates, in case the project falls through. All Independent Study project forms, in quadruplicate, must be filed with the Registrar no later than Tuesday, December 8. If the forms are not filed by that date, the student risks official refusal of his project and a \$10 late filing fee.

Any student planning to initiate their own January term course under faculty supervision should see Mr. Hersh (G3) or the Registrar immediately for guidelines.

No student may enroll in more than one January course. Every full time student at Saint Mary's is required to enroll in a January term course.

Students considering enrollment in January courses at other institutions must register for a regular January course at Saint Mary's, dropping that course only when their exchange enrollment elsewhere has been confirmed. Mills College's January catalogue will be available in the Registrar's office later in November. Any student planning January enrollment at Mills must first obtain an "Exchange Enrollment Authorization" form from the Registrar.



Harvard soph tells of hassles

Dear Pete,

You have undoubtedly heard about the recent bombing of Harvard's Center for International Affairs (CFIA). An estimated \$20,000 damage was done, mainly to the Center's library on underdeveloped countries. The CFIA has come under strong criticism during the last few years, the major issue being the extent to which the Center furthers an imperialist U.S. foreign policy.

The CFIA does advisory work, on request, with the governments of various nations to improve their economic development.

Because the Center seems to stress political stability as a prerequisite for economic growth, it has been accused of aiding in the repression of revolutionary movements. Several specific members of the CFIA staff have been criticized for

their work—Henry Kissinger, for obvious reasons; Samuel Huntington, for his engineering of the strategic hamlet program in South Vietnam; and Seymour Martin Lipset, for his research on student revolts (his books are considered manuals for counterinsurgency). Another

charge is that through its advisory capacity, the Center seeks to provide a favorable environment for U.S. private investment in the foreign countries.

My personal appraisal is that the charges are largely false; that while certain objectionable individuals have been associated with the Center, their influence has not been so dominant as to establish any specific direction for the CFIA. I have grossly simplified the issue here. There are other aspects such as funding for the Center, the specific advice which the Center has given the countries, and the effect of this advice on economic and political development. Not wishing to indulge myself further in such complex matters, I won't go into details.

The mood of the campus (Harvard) seems to be quite mild. The GM strike, Kent State indictments, reaction of the Canadian government to the LaPorte murder, local Congressional elections—these seem to be topics of concern. The various revolutionary groups on campus are trying to establish that the elections make no difference, that more direct pressure must be brought to bear on the elements of repression.

The condemnation of violence is a position held by almost all factions of the University. Even SDS came out against the CFIA bombing as needless terrorism. Most recognize the urgency of political campaign work; very few will leave the campus to do anything.

Say hello to everyone for me. Peace. Greg

Greg Mills is a former Miramonte high school student who is now a sophomore at Harvard.

NEWS CONT...

Spring Term Preregistration

Spring Term Pre-Registration Information

Spring term pre-registration forms with tentative Spring schedules will be available in the Registrar's office Wednesday, November 18. Filing of Spring pre-reg forms in the Registrar's office will begin for all students on Thursday, November 19 and will continue until 3 P.M., Wednesday, November 25. Priority numbers will be assigned as pre-reg forms are filed. Alternate courses should be listed. All students, including those in the Integral Program, are expected to pre-register for Spring term classes. On the pre-reg forms, each student is to list the January term course already enrolled in, as well as the Spring term schedule planned in consultation with the student's advisor. Forms must bear the advisor's signature before it is filed with the Registrar.

Lecture on Japanese - Americans

The Reverend Roy I. Sano, Chaplain and Assistant Professor of Religion at Mills College, will deliver a lecture entitled "Yellow Peril Returned?" on Monday, November 2, at 8 p.m. in Dryden Theater. The lecture is open to the public free of charge.

Collegian Articles

Items for this column, stories, articles and poetry for The Collegian must be turned in one week before the date-of-publication. Copy may be left for the editors at the Switchboard or mailed to The Collegian, Post Office Box 12, Saint Mary's College. Manuscripts cannot be returned.

Continued from page one.....

"I am rather reluctant to change things for the sake of change."

Reviewer reacts to Russ ensemble

Upon seeing the announcement of the Moscow Trio's playing at Saint Mary's College, I immediately envisioned three unsmiling faces of technically impeccable musicians, mounting the stage. The violin and 'cello will have stainless steel strings. The violinist will be of the opinion that a violin bow is 25-1/4 inches long, and to use less than 25 inches of it would be a waste of the People's Resources.

The 'cellist will have roughly the same idea. Each note will be depressed or pulled with a definite beginning and a definite end with a precisely measured amount of time in between, creating a precise ensemble reminiscent of the Bolshoi ballet. Any difference between notes of varying pitch can be measured in cycles-per-second--a human music machine--a Soviet (pronounced soh-VYET) ensemble.

After the predictable pre-concert tune-up (a typically Soviet trait), the Trio re-entered Dryden hall for the first time before an audience. Bending at the waist, they lowered their grim faces, accepting the applause, preparing to do what Tchaikovsky does best: suffer. Played by anyone but a Russian, Tchaikovsky's music becomes melodramatic to the point of boredom. Indeed, only a full orchestra gives sufficient variety of sonic hues in which his suffering soul may preoccupy himself. Chamber music is not his medium; he admits his distaste for it. Nevertheless, for "a great artist" (Rubenstein by name) he swallows his distaste and composes a Trio that has all the qualities of music by Tchaikovsky.

Amazingly, the cold-as-steel tone of a Soviet trio tempers Tchaikovsky, giving it emotional bite as well as gushy melodrama. The results are magnificent. Despite the rattle of dirty dishes next door and the chiming of the Chapel's bells between the second

and third variations of the second movement, the audience is spellbound for three-quarters of an hour. When the last chord of the funeral march coda disappears into silence, audience and performers release a pathetic sigh.

Comic relief is supplied by Miroslav Skorik in the form of his "Recitative for Three Instruments." This contemporary composer sandwiched a light RONDO of Ukrainian folk songs between two RUBATO movements of slow, somber recitatives. This piece is dedicated to the Moscow Trio and is a very recent work, filling in the "modern" slot in the pleasingly varied program scheme (classical/romantic/modern).

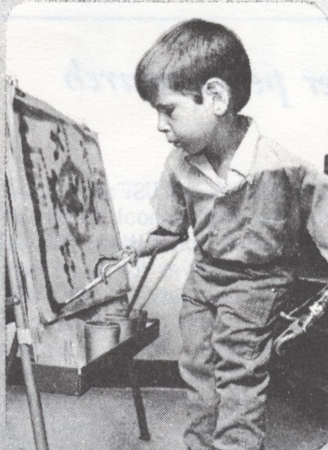
Expected of Soviet ensembles is their one style of play, regardless of program material--the Soviet sound. Beethoven's "Archduke" Trio, however, escapes a Socialist Realism reading, being caught, instead, in a late 19th Century Romantic style of pre-Revolutionary, Czarist Russia. Such decadent sounds may disturb upholders of Party-line music, but it also adds a unique flavor to this work. The artistry of the pianist comes through here. His notes are round, not square, and nicely balanced with the strings due, in part, to a judicious closing of the piano lid half-way: a practice that other such ensembles should adopt.

The result is best described as the one in which the pianist lets a timely smile escape from behind his black beard, while the violinist glows with satisfaction. The 'cello, alas, has all four strings of stainless steel. So ends a rare sort of recital that the listener can take home with him to remember and enjoy for some time to come.

—LOUIS CHERENE

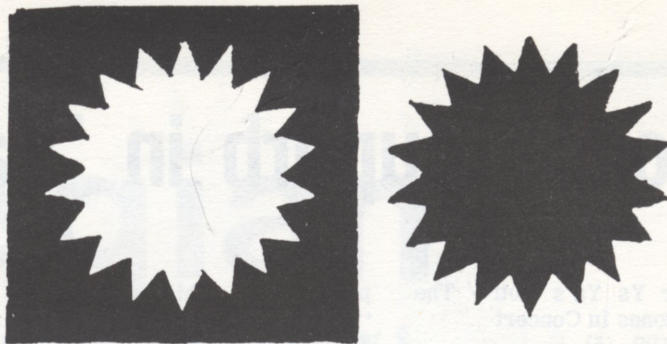
Cherene is the regular reviewer of classical music for The Collegian.

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future
bright



give
to the
March
of Dimes

prevent
birth
defects



ACTIVITIES

By Lee Jones

In a few days a new month will be on us. With the end of October comes HALLOWEEN, everybody's favorite night. In the last month the campus has seen many activities. The football team has evened its season record at the .500 mark, 3-3. A good selection of films have been shown on campus and a variety of political candidates have spoken on campus.

What does November have in store for us? It is the month of THE ELECTION. Be sure and vote if you can. On-campus activities should be numerous for this last full month before the Christmas break.

Looking back to last weekend's Homecoming victory over the Toreros from the University of San Diego. We won, but after that last quarter I wonder how we did. The defense played outstanding football for most of the game, but the offense sputtered. Julio Lopez and Don Angel looked great on the ground. The bare foot of Mike Fanucchi did it again. Over on the defense I felt that George Castagnola played well, as did Pat Madison. Defensive back Dave Gonzalez leaped out of nowhere to break up a pass in the end zone thereby advertising a U.S.D. touchdown. Next week's opponent promises to be even tougher as the Broncos from Cal Poly at Pomona travel to Moraga. More on that later.

Now to look at the week's activities here on the Saint Mary's campus.

A set of three Halloween movies is slated for tonight. At this writing it is still tentative pending the arrival of the films. The three are to be from the works of Edgar Allen Poe. Admission will be 25¢ for all three and I presume that they will be shown in Dryden Theater. This should be a first, having films on a Friday night here at Saint Mary's.

Tomorrow sees the SOCCER team travel to Palo Alto to face the Indians from STANFORD UNIVERSITY. Stanford has been playing a hard and rough game of soccer all season while Saint Mary's has always been on the losing side of the game. However the team is enjoying renewed spirit and anything can happen now.

Coming off of their first-ecer win on the Moraga campus the FOOTBALL team hosts the Broncos from CAL POLY at POMONA. Cal Poly has faced an impressive schedule this season. They have played the University of Hawaii, Cal State at Los Angeles and defeated Sacramento State, always one of the top 'small college' teams in the state. The Broncos will bring with them a fine team that includes Ted Flores at QB, Mike Harrison and John Wiegmann as the top two receivers and an excellent punter in Phil Steffen who is averaging 43.0 yards per kick. Their defensive front four is known as the "Bronco Busters" and has only been scored upon on the ground by Hawaii. It shapes up to be a real tough one. Don't forget that Saint Mary's is off a two game win-streak and needs a win to go to Loyola with momentum to topple the Lions. Can we do it? Show up and find out, kick-off is set for 2 P.M.

The weekend presents the only scheduled activities for the week. This might be our quietest week yet this year, but this is Saint Mary's and anything can happen.

'Belle' Melinda

Pictured to the left is the 'Belle of Saint Mary's. Her name is Melinda Cellars and she is a well noticed coed on the campus. Now in her second semester here at Saint Mary's, Melinda is a senior history major and will be among the first coeds to graduate from Saint Mary's College.



Looking now to The City and off-campus activities. At the FILLMORE/WEST through this Sunday PROCOL HARUM plus Mungo Jerry and Poco will headline. Lights will be provided by Doctor Zarkov. Mungo Jerry, the group, came out this past summer with the hit, "In the Summertime." Procul Harum is known for "Whiter Shade of Pale" and Poco is just Poco.

Still in The City, but across town at the WINTERLAND BALLROOM is Ike and Tina Turner followed up by Bert Sommer and Southwind. Bert Sommer did something this summer but I cannot remember what. Southwind is said to be a country rock group. Shows are for Friday and Saturday nights.

In special movies that are showing around the area I see only one highlight. Over at the Surf Theater on Irving and 46th in The City is a JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL. Number one on the list is Kurosawa's "Seven Samurai." They are showing the 3-1/2 hour uncut version. You can get information on this by phoning 664-6300.

That's it for the week, for some of us a lot to do, and then for others another boring week. Make the most of it and pray for PEACE.

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Stones superb in 'Ya-Ya's'

"Get Yer Ys Ya's Out! / The Rolling Stones in Concert (London NPS - 5).

Last November 27th and 28th the Rolling Stones performed at the Madison Square Garden in New York. The result of this concert was an album entitled, "Get Yer Ya-Ya's Out!" Most of the material on this LP is from the Stones' last three albums; it is also some of their best material. For example, included in this album are: "Jumpin' Jack Flash," "Honky Tonk Woman," "Sympathy for the Devil," "Street Fighting Man," and eight and a half minutes of "Midnight Rambler."

All of the tracks on the album, except for "Honky Tonk Woman," are improvements over the studio recordings. It should be noted that this LP contains more and better guitar playing than any previous Rolling Stones album. Keith Richard and Mick Taylor play unusually good guitar on "Sympathy for the Devil," "Live With Me," and "Stray Cat Blues."

In every band there is a key figure with whom the audience relates. As much as I hate to admit it, Mick Jagger is the key personality in the Rolling Stones. Whenever there is a show business personality such as Mick Jagger, there will always be fans who will insist on screaming throughout the entire

performance. This is evident on "Ya Ya's," but not to the degree as it was on Stones "Got Live If You Want It" LP. All of the songs on this latest album were written by Mick Jagger and Keith Richard, with the exception of "Carol" and "Little Queenie," which were written by Chuck Berry!

Whatever you do, don't regard this as a typical Rolling Stones album. This is by far the best thing they have ever done.

—BILL HARD

Bill is the rock music reviewer for The Collegian. His work will continue to appear throughout the semester.

Yes, Virginia- another peace march

A great many people are talking about ending the war in Vietnam. But it seems that the war is only discussed; no one DOES anything to end it. If students are against the war, as a great many vehemently claim to be, there is some concrete action they can now perform—march for peace.

Tomorrow, October 31 is yet another national moratorium day. All the Bay Area peace groups, organized by the Student Mobilization Committee of the Bay Area Peace Action Council, are sponsoring a peace march and rally.

On Saturday, all the marchers will assemble at Mission Dolores Park in San Francisco at 11 A.M. and Dolores streets at 11 A.M. They will march down Mission street through the downtown area; the march will end at the Civic Center where the rally will take place from 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. Speakers will be: John Trudell, a representative from "Native Americans" who will speak about the Indians on Alcatraz; Dan Segal, a representative for the Soledad Brothers and Los Siete; Manuel Lopez, chairman of the Denver United Mexican-American Students and La Raza Unida Party; Father Boyle from Sacred

Heart Church and USF; a speaker from the high school Student Mobilization Committee; Michael Kennedy, a lawyer for Los Siete; a Black active duty G.I. who will speak for Vets For Peace; a representative from Army Reserve and National Guard For Peace; Leo Lawrence, from the Gay Liberation Movement. A South Vietnamese student will also speak. Speakers will only have five minutes each, so the rally should not drag. Music will be provided by the Thompson Brothers, a country group.

—BILL NOWNS

Bill Nowns is a freshman member of The Collegian staff. He covered the Peace Action Council conference last month for the paper. Nowns claims, "If you give a damn about ending the war, and want our men home now, then SHOW UP AND MARCH FOR PEACE."

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A SECRET C.O.'S "RELIGION"

Many young men are secret C.O.'s. Unfortunately the secret is kept even from themselves. While their beliefs are "religious" according to current law, the secret C.O.'s remain needlessly hung up on the word "religious."

That word is still very much a part of the law. The Selective Service Act requires that conscientious objection to participation in war in any form must exist "by reason of religious training and belief." This key phrase has been interpreted broadly by the Supreme Court.

Five years ago, in "United States v. Seeger," the Supreme Court declared that a draft board's central task is "to decide whether the beliefs professed by a registrant are sincerely held and whether they are, in his own scheme of things, religious." "The reference to the registrant's 'own scheme of things,' "observed the Court this year in "Welsh v. United States," "was intended to indicate that the central consideration in determining whether the registrant's beliefs are religious is whether these beliefs play the role of a religion in the registrant's life."

To make this determination a draft board can first listen to the registrant himself. If he uses the word "religious" to explain the nature and role of his beliefs, he is declaring, in effect, that his beliefs, no matter how unorthodox, do, in fact, function as his "religion." "In such an intensely personal area," the Supreme Court warned in "Seeger," "the claim of the registrant that his belief is an essential part of a religious faith must be given great weight."

Of course, the registrant's claim, while persuasive, is not determinative. A far more objective test was announced by the Supreme Court in "Seeger." Under this test, the requirement of "religious training and belief" can be fulfilled by "a sincere and meaningful belief which occupies in the life of its possessor a place parallel to that filled by the God of those admittedly qualifying for the C.O. exemption. . . ."

With this formula in mind, consider the beliefs expressed by one Forest Peter, a co-defendant with Daniel Seeger in "United States v. Seeger." "Since human life is for me a final value," Peter wrote in his C.O. questionnaire, "I consider it a violation of moral law to take human life. . . . In so far as this conviction is religious, it has been best described. . . as follows: 'Religion is the consciousness of some power manifest in nature which helps man in the ordering of his life in harmony with its demands. . . (it) is the supreme expression of human nature; it is man thinking his highest, feeling his deepest, and living his best.'"

At his trial (for refusing induction) Peter testified: "I think my actions are probably motivated most thoroughly by a feeling of relationship and love toward other living objects in the world, and in seeing these other living objects. I can narrow it down closer; I can define it as a belief in the mystery of the heart of them, the essence of being alive, and my respecting and loving this livingness in other objects and human beings. . . I suppose you could call that a belief in. . . God. These just do not happen to be the words I use."

Despite the words Peter did use, his beliefs were held to be "religious" under the Supreme Court's definition of "religious training and belief." In part of the "Seeger" opinion, the Court decided that Peter's beliefs occupied in his own scheme of things a place parallel to that filled by the God of a more traditionally religious person.

Last June the Court took the same approach again in the Welsh case. Elliott Welsh's beliefs also fulfilled the "Seeger" test. In so finding, the Court ruled: "If an individual deeply and sincerely holds beliefs that are purely ethical or moral in source and content but that nevertheless impose upon him a duty of conscience to refrain from participating in any war at any time, those beliefs certainly occupy in the life of that individual 'a place parallel to that filled by. . . God' in traditionally religious persons. Because his beliefs function as a religion in his life, such an individual is as much entitled to a 'religious' conscientious objector exemption. . . as is someone who derives his conscientious opposition to war from traditional religious convictions."

By now you can see that whether or not your beliefs are "religious" is purely a legal question. If your beliefs meet the "Seeger" test—as reaffirmed in "Welsh"—then they are "religious" according to the supreme law of the land. Therefore, you would be legally justified in calling your beliefs "religious." Remember, you are really pressing a point of law, not settling a metaphysical debate; and your claim that your beliefs are "religious" is entitled to "great weight."

Try to read the following letter written to a draft board and decide whether the language reveals "religious" beliefs: "As a result of a number of problems of conscience with which I have been preoccupied for the past months," one registrant wrote, "I am bound to declare myself unwilling to participate in any violent military conflict, or in activities made in preparation for such an undertaking. My decision arises from what I believe to be considerations of validity from the standpoint of the welfare of humanity and the preservation of the democratic values which we in the United States are struggling to maintain. I have concluded that war, from the practical standpoint, is futile and self-defeating, and that from the more important moral standpoint, it is unethical."

Does this language seem not quite "religious" to you? Do you think the letter is too overtly secular? If so, you had better reconsider the legal definition of a "religious" C.O. You see, the letter was written by Daniel Seeger who was found to be entitled to the C.O. exemption by the United States Supreme Court.

We welcome your questions and comments about the draft law. Send your questions to Mastering the Draft, Suite 1202, 60 East 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.