

Education As a Human Being

Harvard Senior 'Flunks' for Education

By JOHN WOODFIELD
Associated Press Writer

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Randy Runyon would have been a Harvard senior this year but, he is not.

He's a St. John's freshman.

With little more than a year standing between him and a Harvard degree, he chose to start college all over again at the tiny nonsectarian college in Annapolis, Md.

He is not the first student to make this surprising move.

The same thing happens at the college's new western campus, which snuggles in New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

Linda Carithers, who was a junior on the dean's list at the University of New Mexico, wanted to transfer to the little college which refuses to accept transfer students.

Like Randy, she "flunked" herself into the freshman class. Why would good students take this great leap backward?

Randy Runyon did it because he says he wanted to go forward.

"Backward and forward depend on where you want to go," he says.

"College should give you an education as well as a degree. I was getting a degree but not an education.

"I was getting professional training, but an education is something different. Education should prepare you to deal with all of life, how to make sense of what's going on around you and how to appreciate what is written and said about it.

Education Not Trained

"I want to be educated as a human being, not trained as a physicist or an historian. That can come later."

Randy did not leap blindly. He thought about it for more than a year.

"It was a big decision, especially financially. Both my wife, Diana, and I have National Merit scholarships, but mine expires soon. It'll be very hard going.

"But," Randy continued, "it's worth it.

"The experience at St. John's itself is worth it. There is real intellectual excitement here, a joy to learning. The students are here because they want to be. If a student doesn't enjoy it, he leaves.

"At Harvard very few people enjoy their studies. They endure them for the sake of a degree. And Harvard is probably a lot better than most places."

Each year a substantial number of students in good standing at the most distinguished colleges in the country apply for admission to the freshman class at St. John's.

But why does St. John's refuse to accept credits earned at other colleges?

Single Curriculum

"We have a single, all-required curriculum," explains President Richard D. Weigle.

"We are not an educational cafeteria. We do not have course offerings. We have a program. Our program has a beginning and that is where all students must begin.

"Like the acts of a play, each year of the St. John's program is built on the one before.

"We refuse to compromise the integrity of our program even though we are well aware of the

difficulties which face a student who wishes to transfer. He must make a great sacrifice of time and money. Happily, our scholarship funds can help to ease the financial problems."

The college is as stubborn about its size as it is about its program.

Doubled Enrollment

Responding to the pressure to expand, St. John's doubled its enrollment without changing its size.

It started a whole new college 2,000 miles away.

In 1964, a small band of faculty and administrators set out from Annapolis, where the college has been located since 1896, and established a colony campus in Santa Fe. In 1965, St. John's was both the third oldest and third newest college in the country.

Some things about St. John's are very new.

Randy's classes are a model of what is called "student-centered school." Instruction depends more on the activity and initiative of the 10 students who make up Randy's tutorial group than on the pronouncements of the supervising faculty member.

"He can't do our thinking for us," explains Randy. "We learn by thrashing things out, by find-

ing each other's mistakes. We're always involved.

"I didn't know how it would be, being in with freshmen again, but it's great. Three of us in my group have been transferred from other colleges, but that works to our advantage. We learn by teaching each other. The more I can help someone else to learn, the more I can learn myself."

Other things about St. John's are very old.

It insists on old-fashioned intellectual discipline. There may

be "joy" as Randy says, but there is also a lot of hard work. It is the only nondenominational college which requires all students to study ancient Greek.

It also requires them to study Einstein's papers on relativity.

The college has turned to the classics in order to provide a thoroughly modern education which will prepare a student for the future as well as the present.

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GREEK FOCUS WEEK

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY

THE COMMUNITY:

● Panel Discussion,

"Civil Disobedience"

Dr. Clyde DeBerry
Dr. James Klonoski
Dr. Howard
Representative of
U.S. District
Attorney's Office
6:30 EMU Ballroom

● Shakespeare Film

"Winter's Tale"

with Laurence Haney
8:30 EMU Ballroom

WEDNESDAY

THE CAMPUS:

● Bitterlick Singers

Concert at 4:00
EMU Ballroom

● Shakespeare Film "Winter's Tale"

8:00 EMU Ballroom

● T.V. Special

"Right Here, Right
Now... A College
Primer"

PL-3, 9:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

CONTROVERSY:

● Robert Welch

Chairman and Founder
of John Birch Society
7:30 Mac Court

● Underground Film

4:00 EMU Ballroom

FRIDAY

ENTERTAINMENT:

● Friday at Four

Jug, jazz and
rock bands
4:00 Fishbowl

● Lou Rawls

8:00 Mac Court
Tickets still available

SATURDAY

SPORTS:

● All-Star Volleyball

Oregon vs. OSU
half-time of OSU
basketball game

● EMU Recreation costs at 1/2 price

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10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Game Room

DAILY EVENTS

FOLK SINGING GROUP . . . 11 a.m.-1 p.m. daily, EMU Fishbowl

PHOTO DISPLAY . . . Taylor Lounge, EMU

GRADUATE ART DISPLAY . . . 200, EMU

GREEK FOCUS TABLE . . . 10 a.m.-3 p.m. EMU Terrace

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Greek Focus Week

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