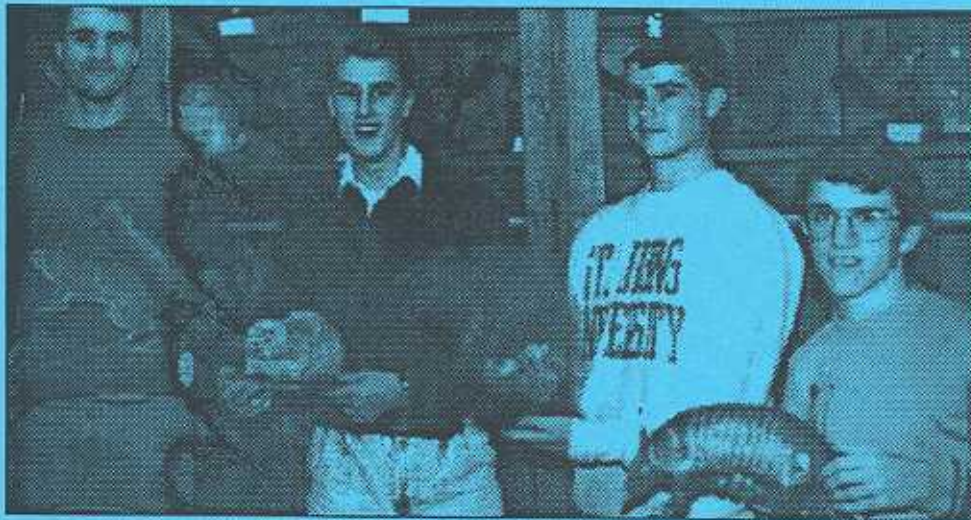


B I O F E E D B A C K

Newsletter of the Biology Department and BioClub of Saint John's University and the College of Saint Benedict



The Safari Club
(from left) Bob Donnett,
Darren Couture, Aaron Heil,
Christian Sack.

*Photo by Dr. J. Poff, SJU/CSB
Biology Dept.*

Safari Club Takes Oikos Bowl II Title

by Sudsy Miller, Bio. Dept. Sportswriter

Recently, the Concepts of Biology lab classes took to the woods and participated in Oikos Bowl II, a competitive ecological scavenger hunt. Each of the twelve lab sections crowned a lab champion and, in addition, an overall winner was determined. This year's champion is the Safari Club, which was comprised of Aaron Heil, Darren Couture, Christian Sack (from Day 4 1:00 lab) and Bob Donnett (from Day 4 2:40 lab). When asked about their complete domination of the event, the winners replied, "we knew we would reign from the start". They also felt that their all-out sprint at the start of the competition allowed them more time for observations in the field and this strategy was, perhaps, the key to their winning performance. The Safari Club also demonstrated a strong team ethic. When asked about this, the victors responded, "everyone contributed...each had a specific task spotting questions, reading and recording, observing, using field guides...". When asked about the observation that put them over the top in the competition, the group felt it was the muskrat that they saw while out on the trail.

As is usually the case with sporting events of this magnitude, controversy reared its ugly head. The dispute arose over the team's use of Donnett, a ringer from another lab section. When asked to comment on this, a club spokesperson replied, "Bon scammed off us. He was the weakest link, if anything." Donnett, in a later interview, disagreed with his teammates assessment and stated that his role on the team was as a "professional guide" but even so, he emphasized that his contribution to the winning effort was "only twenty-five percent".

League commissioner, Jessica Sutherland, feels that the controversy is "way over-blown". She commented that the first allegations of wrong-doing surfaced among oddsmakers in Las Vegas and that the other teams in the event did not voice formal complaints. At a press conference, she stated, "As with any other major sporting event, gamblers are out to make a fast buck on the Oikos Bowl. This office will do everything possible to remove this shady element from our honorable sport".

As for the winners, they have been awarded five bonus points each and

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have been weighing out a variety of commercial endorsement possibilities. They are slated to be honored by President Bush in a Rose Garden ceremony unless, of course, Michael Jordan asks them out for a round of golf on that day.

Jensen Provides Advice

Dr. Ellen Jensen, CSB/SJU Biology Department, participated in a CSB/SJU Career Resource Center presentation entitled "Graduate School Issues" on October 1. The program began with a short lecture on the basics of graduate school, how to apply, who to apply to, etc. Then the students separated into groups according to their interests. Dr. Jensen answered specific questions the students had about graduate schools in the biological sciences.

Summer Research at Vanderbilt

The Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in cellular, biochemical and molecular biology at Vanderbilt Medical School is accepting applications to a summer research program for undergraduate students. The program runs from June 8 through August 14, 1992. You must be entering the Junior or Senior year in college to apply. The stipend is \$2500. For more information, call Dr. Roger Chalkley at (615-343-4611).

Young Visitors

The CSB/SJU Biology Department has been swamped this fall by youthful visitors. Approximately 500 kindergarten, first, second, and fourth grade classes from Oak Hill Elementary (St. Cloud), Sartell Elementary and St's. Peter and Paul (St. Cloud) have enjoyed visits to the museum, greenhouse and woods. One group even learned the basics of the video microscope used extensively by the aquatic ecology classes. Dr. S. G. Saupe arranged the visits and is grateful to Mary K. Tefft (CSB Senior Biology Major), Corina Sarsland (CSB Senior Natural Science Major), Justin Wynn (SJU Sophomore Biology Major), and Tracy Hanson (CSB Junior Education Major) for their assistance.

Editor's Note

Although we are very proud of Biofeedback, we know that there are things that we can do better. For example, we recently learned that some people believe that Biofeedback does not reflect the voice of the students. We have always intended for Biofeedback to represent BOTH students and the department. The focus of topics simply represents the perspectives of the individuals who have contributed articles to us, who happen to be mostly faculty. We especially encourage students to submit contributions to us - let Biofeedback represent your voice, too.

Dr. Terry Tafoya Lectures at CSB/SJU

*by Tanya A. Pratt,
First Year PreMed Major*

On Monday October 14, at 8 p.m., the first of four Warner Lectures for the 1991-1992 school-year was presented by Dr. Terry Tafoya. Dr. Tafoya, a trained scientist and a specialist in family therapy and psycholinguistics, spoke on the topic,

"Sacred Healing and the Path of the Clown". His presentation was accompanied by slides and traditional Native American storytelling that helped to make his presentation truly interesting.

Tafoya, a soft-spoken American Indian, used his story-telling technique and slides as a basis for the audience to understand the use of humor and paradox in the field of general health issues. In addition, through many examples and stories he showed how the contrary view of the world in some cases can provide useful insights for new directions and approaches to the healing of the mind and body.

Notes from the Prez!

*by Gerrit Berg - SJU Senior Biology Major
and Biology Club Co-President*

The CSB/SJU Biology Club is off to a great start. We held our second meeting of the year on Monday, October 14. As a club we have outlined four goals: (1) promoting environmental awareness, (2) putting awareness into action through

service projects, (3) providing career information in the Sciences, and (4) having fun!

At our September meeting, we introduced this year's officers and advisors. With forty plus people in attendance at the meeting we proceeded to brainstorm ideas for the upcoming school year. A list was completed with over 50 different projects which club members showed interest in. In order to accomplish as many goals as possible, we decided to divide into seven committees at our next meeting (Oct. 14). The names of the seven committees are as follows: campus beautification, career information, wildlife, youth education, political work, public relations, and field trips. Each committee will work on at least one project each month. They will plan and organize their event and will then share it with the rest of the club so that all members can helpout and take part.

Our next big event is a camping trip to St. Croix State Park on Saturday, October 26. Unfortunately, by the time this article appears in "Biofeedback" we will most likely have returned with various "chilling" stories to tell of our trip to Minnesota's largest State Park. Although it is too late to go camping there are some upcoming events you will want to watch for including: trip to Minnesota Zoo - tentatively set for November 10, upcoming tour of SJU Wetlands, wildlife presentation fro SJU/CSB community, and Bio Club Meeting - Monday, Nov 18 - 6:45 p.m. Sci 343.

Specific dates are not available because many events are still in the planning stage. Watch your mailbox for notices and the Science building for signs made by our wonderful Public Relations committee headed by Senior Erin Lane.

The club is looking for individuals with the interest and dedication to help us accomplish as much as we can this year. Meetings are generally held on the third Monday of each month around 7:00 p.m. They are held on an alternating basis between the HAB and the Science building. If you would like to be put on

our mailing list, have interest in a particular committee, or have any questions regarding the club, feel free to contact either myself (#3758) or co-president Corina Sarsland (#5914).

Internships Available

The Student Conservation Association, Inc. has opportunities for students to work in national parks, forests, and wildlife refuge areas during the academic year, as well as the summer. For more information contact the CSB Career Resource Center.

The Concerts for the Environment Group is offering one, possibly two, internships to assist during Spring semester. The internship would be unpaid but a possible job - related trip may be included. For more information contact Ms. Jill Farry, Internship director, CSB.

The Minnesota Office of Waste Management's "Waste Education Clearinghouse" is again offering internships. These are unpaid, on-going and requires eight to twenty hours per week for a term. Students who are interested in this internship should contact Ms. Jill Farry, CSB Internship Director, or Ruth Marston, Youth Education Specialist at the Office of Waste Management (1-800-652-9747).

Bioprofile: A Visit With Dr. Marianna Wood

*by Mary K. Tefft,
CSB Senior Biology Major*

Recently I visited with Dr. Marianna Wood to discover a little about the person behind the professor. Marianna grew up in Glenolden, PA which is a suburb of Philadelphia with her two brothers and her parents. She received her bachelor's degree at Northland College in Ashland, WI and went on to receive her PhD from the University of Kansas. She is an ethologist (animal behavior) because she found it the most interesting area in biology. At the University of Kansas, she wrote her dissertation on foraging in chipmunks (last year she presented her findings in a biology department seminar) and she hopes to work more on these theories here with help from some interested students. She would like to take eco-



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nomie theories and apply them to animals. When I asked Marianna what she liked about CSB/SJU, she said she was very impressed with the campus and that field work and research could be done so close to the community. She also liked the idea of smaller classes where the people could be known by name instead of by number. This semester, Marianna is teaching Concepts of Biology I and Human Biology, during J-term she will teach an animal behavior class, and next spring she will again teach Human Biology and Concepts. When not teaching, Marianna enjoys camping, hiking, biking, swimming, and reading. Biofeedback would like to extend an official, hearty Biology Welcome to Dr. Wood.

Visit by Microbiologist

by Peter Grant Magnuson, SJU Junior Natural Science Major

Microbial physiology, in particular the interaction of detergent with bacteria, has been the focus of much research by Dr. Ken Nickerson, a research professor at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Nickerson has been studying the abilities of bacteria (*Enterobacteriaceae*) to grow in a high concentration of detergents (Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate [SDS]). On October 8, 1991, Dr. Nickerson visited the Microbiology class and gave a department sponsored lecture on his research. The primary reason for his visit was to collaborate on the writing of a paper with Dr. Ellen Jensen, CSB/SJU Biology Department, on her completed research.

P A G E F O U R

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