November 6, 1990

Cardinal Sins Celebrates Ten Years


And its own title, Cardinal Sins, reflects a bit of the tongue-in-check, irreverent and creative experimentation with the English language often contained between its covers.

In 1981 English professor Gary Thompson and then-student Michael Langworthy initiated the first issue of the student-run literary magazine with the aid of a Student Government grant. Today, some seven editors-in-chief and five faculty advisors later, the publication is entering its tenth year of more or less continuous publication. The name was coined by English professor Tom Hearron.

The Sins accepts for publication poetry, short fiction, essays, two-dimensional art and black and white photography by SVSU students, faculty, staff and alumni. Submissions are dropped off at the evening services office, and student editors select the most suitable to appear in upcoming issues. All the production work — typing, layout, paste-up — is done by student volunteers, and the results are printed at the University graphics center.

Since its first issue, the Sins has published more than 300 poems, 80 short stories, 20 essays and 135 illustrations — both photographs and original art. It boasts more than 150 writers and 50 artists among its contributors, and some 39 student editors have assisted the editors-in-chief over the decade.

But the Cardinal Sins’ staff has not confined its efforts to the printed page. The group also sponsors an annual writing and photography contest. Another annual project is the "Non-Stop Poetic Cabaret," an arts festival featuring well-known Michigan authors and showcasing the creative talents of the campus community.

Current Sins’ editor-in-chief is Marc Beaudin, a senior from Essexville. Beaudin initially was attracted to the publication as an outlet for some of the poetry and fiction he pens. That was in 1987, and he has become a permanent part of the staff since then, heading the editorial crew for the past two years. "I started by submitting some of my work," he says. "That led to going to meetings and that led to joining the staff, and eventually becoming editor."

He particularly enjoys reviewing work submitted by other students, faculty and staff. "It gives me the opportunity to get into people's minds," he says. The Non-Stop Poetic Cabaret also is a source of pleasure for Beaudin.

Working on the Sins, Beaudin says, "gives the people involved a lot of experience in running a magazine. All the technical things like layout and typesetting and the art are done by student editors. For those who are writers, it is a good way to improve writing by submitting work for publication.

"For others it is a good way to keep these arts alive — reading and seeing what is going on today, not just what happened a hundred years ago," he notes.

A November 11 birthday celebration is being planned in observance of the Sins’ anniversary year. It will include a reunion of former magazine participants, poetry and prose readings, music by the Valley Wind Quintet, art displays and a "Best of" issue featuring literary and visual highlights from previous Sins volumes.
MCTE Honors Jean Brown; SVSU Faculty Participate in Conference

Dr. Jean Brown, professor of teacher education, was presented with the Charles C. Fries Award at the October 25-27 annual conference of the Michigan Council of Teachers of English. The award is the Council's highest honor for service to the profession.

Brown, who joined the SVSU faculty in 1982, is noted as "a tireless worker for the Council." Among her current research interests is the issue of censorship and its impact on teachers and the curriculum. She currently serves as SLATE (Support for the Learning and Teaching of English) representative for Michigan and on the SLATE steering committee for the National Council of Teachers of English, representing Region 4.

The conference capstone address, "Coming Full Circle: Diversity for the 90s," was delivered by Brown. She is editor of The Michigan English Teacher.

Other SVSU faculty who participated in the conference were Dr. Thomas Hearron, professor of English; and Dr. Kerry Segal, associate professor of English/reading, who discussed "Teaching International Literature: Some Steps Toward Combatting Ethnocentrism."

Dr. Ervin Sparapani, associate professor of teacher education, served as co-presenter with Peter Edwards of Clarion University of Pennsylvania on "Study Experiences for the Language Arts: A Model for Unifying the Teaching of Thinking Skills." Dr. James Sullivan, associate professor of English, presented "The Role of the Celt in Henry V."

Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert S.P. Yien spoke to the Saturday morning general session on the "Japan Center for Michigan Universities: A Michigan Response to Internationalization of Higher Education."

Dr. Basil Clark, professor of English, is the current president of MCTE and was among those who planned the conference. The conference program was prepared and printed at SVSU and Dr. Brown worked on publicity for the event.

Math Professors Garner Title II Grant

Dr. John Mooningham, associate professor of mathematical sciences, and Dr. Garry Johns, assistant professor of mathematical sciences, expect to be full of "VIM" at least through next summer.

A grant proposal written by the pair has received $21,999 from the Michigan Department of Education's 1990-91 Title II Higher Education Grants Program. "Venture in Mathematics" (VIM) will provide instruction updates in mathematics to 30 middle school mathematics teachers. "VIM also should give participating teachers a renewed sense of enjoyment for their subject," Mooningham said.

Mooningham and Johns developed the grant proposal to help area teachers enhance their problem solving techniques and to present motivational techniques that would aid in decreasing the attrition rate in mathematical subjects. They plan to do this by providing updated information in the field of mathematics through a summer workshop. They will continue to evaluate work with participating teachers through the end of 1991.

Among the goals of the workshop are providing information on how to correlate teaching with the "Michigan Essential Goals and Objectives for Mathematics Education," demonstrating strategies for use of calculators and computers to enhance the understanding of mathematical concepts and showing teachers how to extend student understanding from concrete applications to abstract conceptualizations.

The workshop also will present strategies that will let students have fun while learning math and it will help math teachers identify ways to encourage greater numbers of females to be involved in math subjects.

Mooningham and Johns will complete plans for the workshop, which is scheduled June 17 to June 28, by March 1991. Even before the final schedule has been set, four teachers have asked for reservations, they said.

"We are excited about the further development of this project," Johns said, "and look forward to assisting area teachers."
Project SOLVE Receives Funding Renewal

Project SOLVE (Science Outreach Leadership Venture for Excellence) will enter its fifth year with an updated title and a $34,535 grant from the Michigan Department of Education's Title II program. The award-winning project is directed by Dr. Walter Rathkamp, professor of biology and director of the Regional Math/Science Center at SVSU.


"Our goal is to provide professional development upgrades in science for elementary teachers and middle school teachers," Rathkamp said. "We also plan to offer assistance to teachers and administrators in the process of science curriculum development." Continuing support for previous Project SOLVE participants also will be offered, Rathkamp said.

By working directly with teachers, the project will impact a large number of students, Rathkamp indicated. The program places an emphasis on assisting teachers and administrators who serve rural, minority, gifted/talented students, as well as general student populations.

"We plan to develop a cadre of science teacher and administrator leaders trained in the science curriculum process and then provide support and follow-up activities," Rathkamp said. A computer-mediated communication system allows SOLVE participants to ask questions and obtain information from science education experts.

A SEMSplus Consortium workshop will take place during the third week of June. A two-week science content workshop is set for the second and third weeks of July. Concluding the workshops is a late-July session on science curriculum development. Follow-up activities continue through December 1991.

Rathkamp expects 10 elementary and 10 middle school teachers will be trained as leaders for dissemination of science content. Another 35 elementary and 35 middle school teachers will be given science content upgrades. In addition, six teams from six area schools will be trained in the process of curriculum development through SEMSplus modules.

Briefly Speaking

- The Zahnow Library Lecture Series features Dr. Hong Y. Park speaking on "Work Incentives in U.S. and Japan." His talk is set for 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7 in the Zahnow student lounge. An exhibit of related materials is in the display case on the first floor of the library.

- The Twelfth Annual Scholarship Luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 8 in lower level Doan Center. The annual event recognizes SVSU's scholarship recipients.

- Mr. Demare, senior finance manager and head of currency trading for The Dow Chemical Company, will discuss "Dow Chemical's Corporate Use of Currency Trading" on Thursday, Nov. 8. His address will take place from 6-7 p.m. in the Zahnow student lounge. For information, call ext. 4311.

- The Valley Film Society will present Tess, a triple Oscar-winning film, at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9 in the SVSU Theatre. Call ext. 4015.
Professional Profile

-- Dr. Roosevelt Ruffin, director of multicultural programs/affirmative action, performed with the New Reformation Jazz Band as part of the ensemble's twentieth anniversary observance October 20 at Saginaw's Heritage Theater. Ruffin also performed a reading, "The American Constitution," with the Saginaw Symphony on November 1. On November 13, he will address General Motors executives on the King/Chavez/Parks Visiting Professorship.

-- Several SVSU faculty participated in the annual conference of the Michigan Council of Teachers of English. See article on pg. 2.

Across Campus

-- Congratulations to Beth McNett-Fettenger, instructor of nursing, and her husband, Steve, on the birth of their second son. Nicholas Steven arrived October 30, weighing 7 lbs. 4 oz.; he is 19 inches tall.

Across Town

Persons interested in learning more about the Persian Gulf crisis are invited to attend a forum at Warren Avenue Presbyterian Church from 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7. Dr. Nile Harper, director of the Ecumenical Campus Center at the University of Michigan-AA, and a U. of M. doctoral candidate will present "A Perspective of the Persian Gulf Crisis." Dr. Harper is deeply involved in global education. The forum is free of charge and includes a question and answer session. Warren Avenue Church is located at 612 Millard Street in Saginaw. For more information or to make a reservation, please call 752-6474.

High Five

-- SVSU has the hottest football team in the MIFC with a four-game win streak after a 21-14 win at Ferris State November 3. The 5-5 Cardinals will host Butler University this Saturday at Cardinal Stadium. Stadium renovation is incomplete, so no admission will be charged.

-- The Lady Cardinal volleyball team dropped a pair of matches last week at Ferris State and at Indiana/Purdue-Fort Wayne. SVSU is 9-14 overall and 4-10 in the GLIAC and closes its season this week against Hillsdale and Wayne State University.

-- SVSU men's and women's teams each finished 12th at the regional cross country meet Saturday, November 3. Sophomore Becky Duda ran a personal record time of 17:37 on the 5K course at the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional Championships. She will advance to the NCAA II National Championships on November 17, where she earned All-American honors last year with a 17th-place finish. Junior captain Todd Graham led SVSU with a 44th place finish in 33:24 on the 10K course.

Peter P. Dyvig, Danish Ambassador to the U.S., viewed the Marshall Fredericks Gallery Monday. He and his wife, Karen, were guests of the sculptor whose works appear in the gallery. Dyvig was in Michigan to receive an award recognizing Denmark's good treatment of Jews during World War II. While at SVSU he was presented a silver medallion featuring Fredericks' "Flying Geese" on one side, the SVSU seal on the other. Shown in the photo (l to r), back row: Ned Arbury, chairman of the gallery board; Ambassador Dyvig; Marshall Fredericks; President Gilbertson; and front row: Rosalind Fredericks; Karen Dyvig; and Dorothy D. (Honey) Arbury. The Fine Arts Center is named for the Arburs.
It's been said that once you learn to ride a bike, you never forget the skill. Barb Mehnert, senior secretary in the conference bureau, hopes the same is true of computer software.

A recreational biking enthusiast, Mehnert says she averages "about 15 to 20 miles per evening" of two-wheeling exercise. Her daily course is varied.

"I bike through the city of Bay City and now along the new River Walk. I even come way out here to the University, and I often go by Delta College." Mehnert especially enjoys the deer and other wildlife she sees as she pedals the grounds near Delta.

Weather permitting, she bikes every night. "It gets rid of the stress," she smiles.

And she's experienced more than the usual stress of a busy office schedule lately. For the past several weeks she has wrestled with a demanding software package that promises to ease much of the paperwork associated with scheduling campus facilities and services. If the program can be made fully operational, that is. And that is proving to be a challenge.

She's working with a package called the Welber System. "Elihu H. Welber designed the system and wrote the software," she explains. "It is intended mainly for colleges. Welber had worked on a college campus and devised the system to solve problems."

At least two other Michigan universities — Ferris State and Grand Valley — use Welber, Mehnert says. Earlier this fall she visited the Ferris campus to glean tips on efficient use of the system. She found the Ferris operator enthusiastic about the program and came back ready to scrap the numerous handwritten forms used by the conference bureau and replace them with computer entries that would generate all the information needed to successfully schedule an event.

She soon encountered an obstacle, she says. Because Ferris handles food service separately from other conference-related services, their scheduling system requires less detail.

So Mehnert is working with computer services personnel and Welber to adapt the system to SVSU's needs. It is a sometimes frustrating process, she says, but the rewards will make it worth the effort.

"I have used the system on a trial basis," she notes, "running it parallel with the old system. Above and beyond handling reservations, Welber will do reports such as listing what's happening at a given site."

Mehnert began her work at SVSU in the Chrysalis Center with Rose Collamer. In both that job and her present position, service to people was a key element. However, her present schedule is much more predictable. "At Chrysalis Center you never knew who was going to come in or what they might want."

An avid reader, Mehnert currently is digesting the book recounting the story of John List, former Bay City resident accused of murdering his family. She also enjoys gardening and other outdoor activities, and is active in support groups for her church.

Two of her children, a son who is a CAD/CAM operator for D & J Tool and Die in Vassar and a daughter who will graduate from SVSU in December, still live at home. "My daughter will take part in the December Commencement," she says. "She thinks it is wonderful that these students will be recognized."
Vive la Différence!

Cultural and gender differences not only exist, but should be celebrated, believes Les Thornton, SVSU’s KCP Visiting Professor for 1990-91.

"Americanism is hyphenation," he asserts, citing examples such as Afro-American, Chinese-American, Italian-American, Jewish-American, etc., as proof of his point. And, in his mind, this diversity is desirable.

"The hyphen is what makes a person American," he says. "We need to utilize these differences. The differences are what makes America the greatest country anywhere."

His passion for preserving and valuing cultural differences has led to authorship of a soon-to-be-published book. "The bottom line of the book," he says, "basically states that world problems cannot be solved monoculturally. Problems such as hunger, maintaining the environment, health care, etc., have multicultural solutions."

Thornton considers feminism an important aspect of multiculturalism. "In the 21st Century, we must get feminine thought out there," he believes that the feminine perspective is different than the masculine, and that both must be given value to arrive at the best solution to problems.

The KCP visiting professorship is an effective method for increasing multicultural efforts on university campuses, Thornton believes. Minorities often are not numerically well represented on college faculties, and the KCP program offers an opportunity to change that.

"The problem," Thornton feels, "lies not so much in locating well-qualified minority faculty as with traditional barriers to hiring them. "Faculties are like families in many ways," he says. "Since candidates for faculty positions often are screened by their peers, change in ethnic composition may come slowly."

"Hiring a non-white or a woman (to a faculty composed mainly of white males) is scary. Many are not willing to jump over that hurdle. They like to hire candidates whose experiences, manners, ideas and characteristics are similar to theirs. So male white thought predominates," Thornton says.

But he anticipates major shifts within the next 10-15 years. "Look at what happened in Europe," he says. "The whole world is changing literally overnight."

Thornton even carries his egalitarian spirit to causes less lofty. As holder of an undergraduate degree from Michigan State University and an M.S.W. from the University of Michigan, he has a simple solution to handling allegiances during the annual football rivalry. "I carry flags from both schools," he laughs. "When State scores, I wave the MSU flag, and when the U. of M. scores, I wave the maize and blue." He notes that MSU fans seem more comfortable with this ritual than Wolverine supporters.

In the classroom, Thornton stresses experiential exercises to stimulate creativity. Some students are uncomfortable with a lack of structure, he finds. "I tell them, ‘You put the structure in.’ That is how you can use your creativity."

Thornton has extensive experience with mental health and other government agencies. He offers consulting services in social services areas, frequently travelling across the nation and abroad. Recently he worked with the city of Memphis, helping them write a grant proposal to help them solve their AIDS problem.