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Santa Cruz Sentinel

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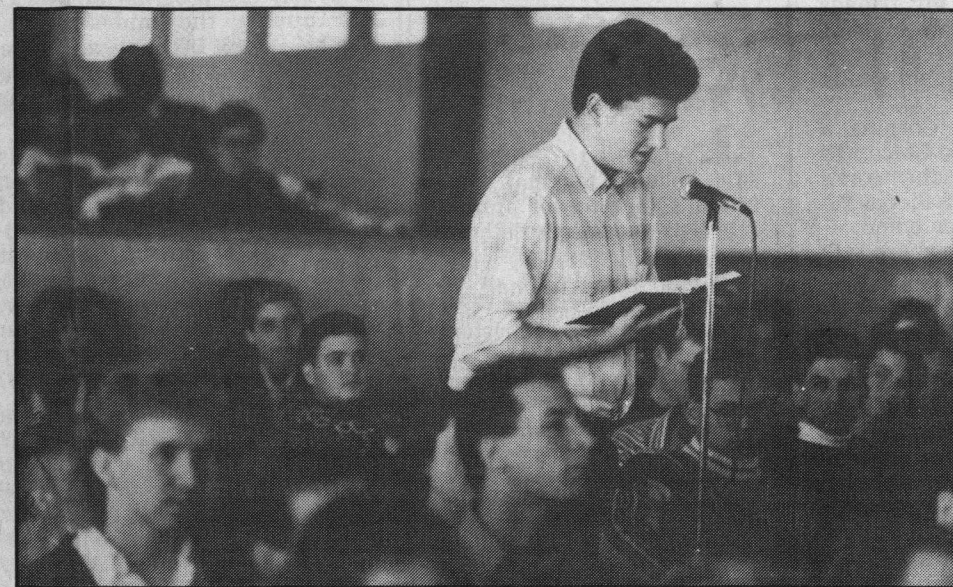
Bethany College

'I was going to go into the Air Force, but at the last minute God said come here.'

— *Shawna Bean, freshman*

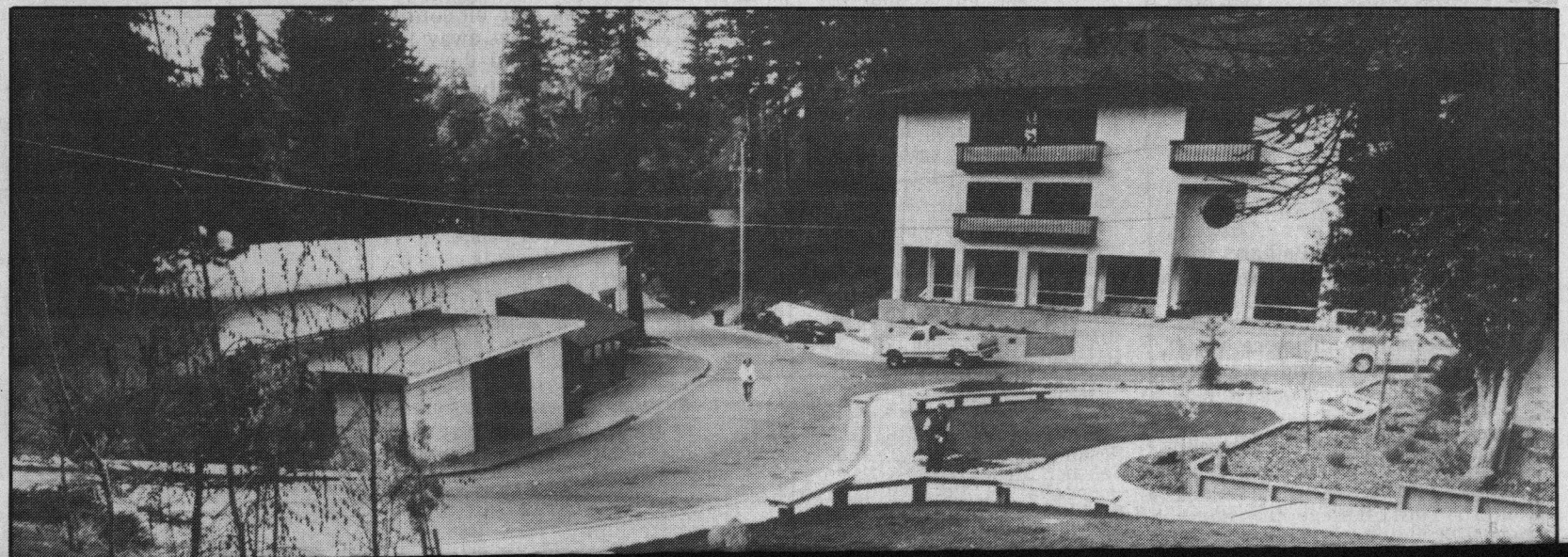


Everett Wilson administers academic affairs.



Student reads from Bible in morning chapel service.

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**College
for the
upright**



upright

Bethany's community keeps a quiet, upstanding profile

By ROBERT MITTENDORF
Sentinel staff writer

JEREMY INMAN, a freshman at Bethany College in Scotts Valley, says that "Prayer is a great way to start your day."

For Inman and some 450 other Bethany students, prayer is a central part of each day. They're required to attend daily chapel as part of their day at Bethany, a fully accredited four-year college operated by the Assemblies of God, a Pentecostal denomination based in Springfield, Mo.

Bethany was founded in 1919 as part of the Glad Tidings Temple, a San Francisco mission run by Robert and Mary Craig. In 1950, the school moved its campus to a hillside redwood grove on the outskirts of Scotts Valley.

By 1993, however, the school plans to leave, possibly to the Sacramento area. Officials have been looking for an appropriate Central Valley site to purchase, possibly Mather Air Force Base, which is slated for closure under recent Defense Department cutbacks. They've also been trying to sell the Scotts Valley campus, located on a wooded 119-acre parcel, worth an estimated \$29 million.

Although the rising cost of living in Santa Cruz County was a factor in the decision to move, church officials want the school to be more centrally located in the denomination's Northern California and Nevada District.

"It's a big move, and I wouldn't expect it to happen easily," said Everett Wilson, Bethany's vice president for academic affairs. The depressed real estate market is hampering the search for buyers, he said.

THE COLLEGE offers 36 majors in areas such as biblical studies, philosophy, church ministries, education, psychology, communication arts, music and social and natural sciences. Its annual budget is about \$5 million, with about 60 faculty and staff members. Annual tuition is approximately \$10,000, although many students receive financial assistance.

Students are required to adhere to strict set of regulations, many of which are based on church teachings.

Members of the opposite sex are not allowed in each others' dormitory rooms. Social dancing, premarital sex and use of drugs — including tobacco and alcohol — is prohibited. They may not watch movies with a rating of PG-13 or greater.

"Our students came here knowing things are going this way," said Wilson. Wilson, a congenial man of 56, has a bachelor's degree in social science and history from Bethany, a master's degree in history from UC Berkeley and a doctorate in history from Stanford University.

"What we want to do is take our students by the hand and show them the world," Wilson said. "They'll see it's not perfect, but they'll also see the good."

Like many Bethany students, second-semester freshman Shawna Bean said God made her college choice for her.

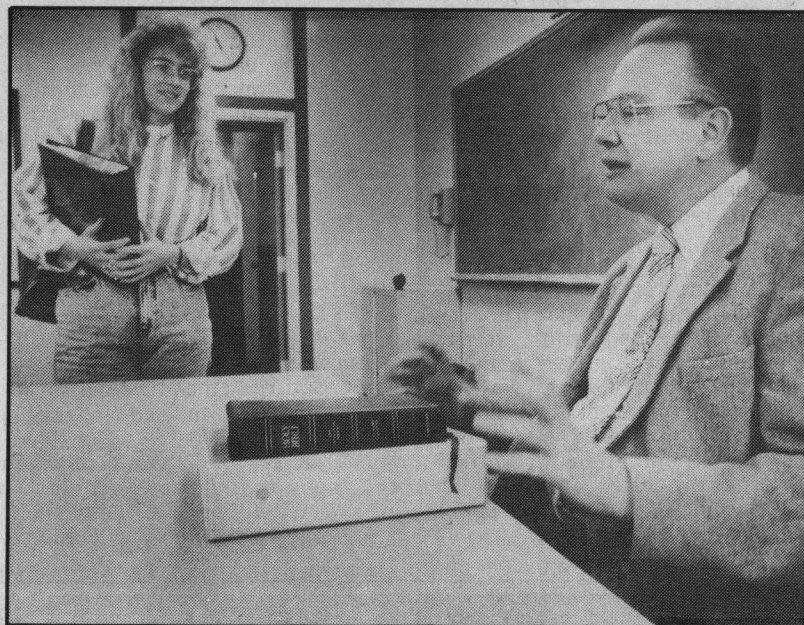
"I was going to go into the Air Force, but at the last minute God said come here," said Bean, who lives in Mary V. Swanson Hall, sharing a room with another student. She is studying to be a pre-school teacher with an emphasis

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Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel photos

Bethany College campus winds through redwood hillside near Scotts Valley.



Senior ministerial student Stacey Scott calls on Norman Arnesen, who teaches Biblical interpretation.

What impact, if the college leaves?

By JOHN McNICHOLAS
Sentinel staff writer

BETHANY COLLEGE'S departure would ripple Scotts Valley's economy, merchants and city officials said, but wouldn't make a big splash.

But the college would be missed, they said. Students are valued by local merchants as workers, and the school "has been a good neighbor and a good citizen of the community," in the words of senior city planner Katheryn Caldwell.

There are no studies of how much money the tax-exempt college and its approximately 550 students and staff members bring into the community, city

and college representatives said. But Mayor Joe Miller estimated the revenue and sales the city and its merchants will lose "won't be a huge amount. ... They're not high-priced people."

"It will have an effect just because of the numbers up there," said Memory Woodard, director of the Scotts Valley Chamber of Commerce, "but there has not been a lot of rumbling that this will have a great deal of impact. I'm kind of in a watch-wait-and-see mode."

Jeff Granucci, manager of Denny's in Scotts Valley where faculty, students and their families are often seen, said "I don't

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College builds on prayer

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on intercultural child development.

"It seemed like all my friends were going to Chico State to party a lot, and I wanted to get away from that," she said. "It's a totally different climate here."

Bean, 19, grew up in Corning, a small community near Chico. To help pay her tuition, she works during the summer at a Sierra Pacific paper mill near her home.

"I wanted to go somewhere safe with a church background," Bean said. "My mom always wanted to go here, so I'm kind of living out her dream."

BETHANY HAS built a legacy of religious teaching, moral standards and volunteer service that has touched the community.

While the college administration has taken no direct interest in local politics or activities, the school and its students, graduates and faculty have nonetheless been a social force whose absence will be noticed in Scotts Valley.

"You can't assume the city's going to go to the dogs, but you can't help but know you're going to miss the positive influence it has had here," said the Rev. Glennon Culwell, a former mayor of Scotts Valley and four-year councilman. Culwell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Scotts Valley for 28 years, often served as a liaison between the city and the college.

"Their biggest impact has been a quality influence of outstanding character and morality," Culwell said. He cited a recent Bethany student project to pick up litter along major city streets.

"They've set an example for the entire community. They're very community-minded and service-minded people."

A COMMITMENT to community service is part of Bethany's mission as a college, said Richard Foth, college president since 1978.

"The nature of the college has a strong emphasis on community and commitment to each other," said Richard Foth, college president since 1978.

"Even though we aren't a strong political entity, we encourage our folks to let their presence be felt in the community," he said. "Christians are to be salt and light. Being an influence on the community, without dominating the community, has been Bethany's track record."

Where they are now

THERE ISN'T a "typical" student who comes to Bethany, said Brian Steckman, the school's director of alumni relations and also a Bethany graduate.

"Since our majors or so varied there isn't one type, except for common Christian values," he said.

Another school official said 80 percent of the students come from California; a very small percentage are from outside the country.

After they graduate, the largest percentage of Bethany students to into church-related work, Steckman said, as ministers, choir and music directors and in other positions. A survey now underway shows the next largest group chooses teaching; the third largest group is housewives and the next largest is in business, he said.

"This (survey) doesn't really show it, but historically, we have a large number go into the military, many as chaplains," he said. "And well over 60 percent go on to some sort of education after Bethany," most going to state or other public colleges.

In the current survey of students who graduated between 1980 and 1984, 84 of the 407 students polled have responded so far. Those results show:

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT	
Pastor.....	31.0
Teacher.....	26.2
Housewife.....	14.3
Business.....	10.7
Counselor.....	8.3
Law.....	3.6
Student.....	2.4
Armed forces.....	1.2
MAJOR	
Ministerial.....	35.7
Multiple subject.....	23.8
Psychology.....	13.1
English.....	7.1
Social science.....	6.0

HOW PREPARED WERE YOU FOR CURRENT EMPLOYMENT	
Very well prepared.....	15.5
Well prepared.....	32.1
Prepared.....	34.5
Poorly prepared.....	11.9

City Council in 1982. Paul Couchman, a member of the Scotts Valley's first City Council, was emcee of a Bethany program on KSCO-AM during the mid-60s. Tom Balch, a 1983 Bethany graduate, was elected last year to the Scotts Valley Unified School District Board of Education.

Balch, whose wife Annette is daughter of academic dean Wilson, is partner with his father and brother in Balch Petroleum, a Milpitas engineering firm. Like most Bethany students, he chose the private sector over full-time ministry. But he said his Christian education has enabled him to be a better member of the community.

"Sometimes people get the idea that Bethany is a Bible college," Balch said. "But what people do there is get a well-rounded education with an emphasis on public service. We're all called 'ministers' — as Christians — and that can be expressed in a lot of different ways. You only find fulfillment in life through service to other people."

ALTHOUGH city officials and members of the business community say they don't foresee a major economic loss from Bethany's departure, other areas — including local Christian schools and the 13 Assembly of God congregations across Santa Cruz County — are bound to be affected.

Margaret Relph, administrative secretary for Baymonte Christian School, says the local school has employed Bethany students as preschool teachers and has profited from Bethany education students who complete their student-teaching requirements at Baymonte.

In addition, many of Bethany's married students send their children to Baymonte, which has about 150 students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

"The biggest impact will be in student teaching for our preschool. (Bethany) has an excellent reputation for teacher training," Relph said. "It's really hard to get staff for the pre-school these days. I'm sorry to see the school go. It adds a balancing influence to our community."

The Rev. Dick Tenneson, a Bethany graduate, a part-time journalism instructor at Bethany, and pastor of the Santa Cruz Assembly of God, said the college has been a "tremendous resource" for his congregation.



Shannna Bean wanted a safe school, with a church background.

Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel photos

...to let their presence be felt in the community," he said. "Christians are to be salt and light. Being an influence on the community, without dominating the community, has been Bethany's track record."

"In a culture that says 'Look out for No. 1,' that's not where we land. If I serve you well, I am helped."

Several Bethany faculty members and their relatives, in addition to former Bethany students who remain in the area, have held elected and appointed positions within the city and the local school district. They've taught in local schools and have been active in their churches and in secular organizations such as Little League.

Social science.....	6.0
HOW PREPARED WERE YOU FOR CURRENT EMPLOYMENT	
Very well prepared.....	15.5
Well prepared.....	32.1
Prepared.....	34.5
Poorly prepared.....	11.9
Very poorly prepared.....	2.4

NUMBER OF OTHER COLLEGES ATTENDED	
0.....	20.2
1.....	42.9
2.....	19.0
3.....	16.7
4.....	1.2

Elmer Kirsch, a former Bethany instructor, served on the city Planning Commission during the late 1970s and ran unsuccessfully for

The Rev. Dick Tenneson, a Bethany graduate, a part-time journalism instructor at Bethany, and pastor of the Santa Cruz Assembly of God, said the college has been a "tremendous resource" for his congregation.

"We have ministry team from Bethany (at our church) all the time because I love to expose our young people to that," he said.

"I'm one of the people who came to Bethany and stayed," said Tenneson, who worked for 15 years in journalism, advertising and public relations before he moved with his wife and children from the San Fernando Valley in 1972 to study for the ministry.

"People like me never would have come here if it hadn't been for Bethany," he said.

Young people are Bethany's stock-in-trade, said Wilson, who as academic dean is part of President Foth's closest advisors. He started teaching U.S. history at Bethany in 1959, and was named to his current post in 1982.

"Students who come to Bethany think they want to devote their lives to some kind of spiritual service," Wilson said. "They're not always sure what that means, but they have this experiential commitment."

A typical Bethany student is white, middle class and just as likely to be a man as a woman. The denomination is making an effort to reach out to members of minority groups, especially Hispanics and blacks, Wilson said.

As an educator, Wilson, says his task is to help students with the transition from their adolescence — where their families provided guidance — into adulthood.

"You want people to be prepared for the realities of life," he said. "You want to push them, but you also want them to be good people."



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel photos

Shawna Bean wanted a safe school, with a church background.



Students pick up their attendance cards of chapel services; they are required to attend a specific number of services each semester.

Impact

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underrate their business at all, but I think their leaving is something we could adjust to."

But there are other impacts city officials are considering, like: What would replace the school?

The land is zoned for schools, public-agency or park use, or for single-family homes, said planner Caldwell.

If homes were built on the hilly acreage, then property taxes and other fees would provide the city with income the school doesn't provide.

"It makes an ideal school site, of course," Miller said. "If you really wanted to convert it, it would be unsuitable for industrial use. ... I honestly think it would be better off in estate-sized homes."

One local merchant is anticipating at least one big change:

"I'll lose some terrific employees," said Helen Williams, owner of the Book Bank on Mount Hermon Road.

A school official said 80 percent of the students there work, either on or off campus.

"I really like the quality of employees," Williams said. "I live over the hill, and I look to Bethany to provide employees. ... There are a lot of people who use the students as short-term labor."

"They know they can trust the kids. I think they'll miss the safety. They're good members of society — they're not drinking and carousing up there."

"They set a tone, and I think that will be missed more than the dollars."

Parents Club of Holy Cross Elementary and Junior High School would like to thank the following businesses for their generous support during our recent Jog-A-Thon fundraising event.

41st Avenue Playhouse
Allez

First American Title
Footlocker

Poor Richard's Almanac
Portola House