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Schooner Trips and Pow Wows mark Bicentennial Course

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Recommended Citation

Salve Regina College, "Schooner Trips and Pow Wows mark Bicentennial Course" (1974). *Press Release Archive*. 1018.

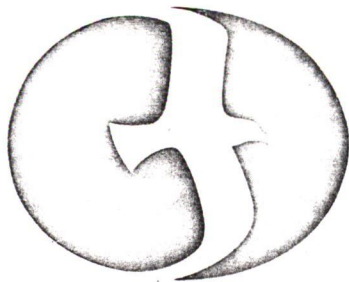
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SCHOONER TRIPS AND POW WOWS MARK BICENTENNIAL COURSE

It will start with a Revolutionary War musicale of sea chanteys and slave music. Then there will be a Bastille Day tribute with visiting French dignitaries. Later, comes the schooner trip to Mystic Seaport and the visit to Saratoga, N. Y., and Bennington, Vermont. In between will be everything from a johnny cake festival to an Indian pow wow with tribal songs and dances.

What is it? Certainly not your average summer school course, but Part II of Salve Regina College's Bicentennial Education Program, the first program of its kind in the country. It's open to people in or out of college, and they can get four college credits for participating.

Salve Regina College, a small college in Newport, Rhode Island, began the special Bicentennial series in January. The program is a trio of three and four-week seminars on our colonial heritage. Each segment is self-contained so people can participate for credit in the summer program (July 1-26) even if they missed the January session.

Earlier this year, the college attracted national attention to the program by distributing posters characterizing Ben Franklin as a "Henry Kissinger in granny glasses." Subsequently, the series

has been mentioned on numerous television news shows, the quiz show "Hollywood Squares," most of the nation's major daily newspapers and even earned a letter of congratulation from Secretary of State Kissinger.

This time around, the college takes on George Washington in its attempt to build interest and enthusiasm for the Bicentennial. Special posters headlined, "How George Almost Missed the Boat," show Washington's uniform -- not Washington -- crossing the Delaware. Old George has been skillfully airbrushed out of the picture to dramatize that half his army never made it because there weren't enough boats.

It's a fact. Look it up. And while you're at it, you'll find a lot of other interesting things about our Revolution -- facts which Salve will bring out this summer in its nationally recognized Bicentennial Program.

"We want to take the 'history' out of history books and blow the dust off our colonial past," says Mr. Donald Magee, coordinator of the Bicentennial summer session. "Too many people think of history in 'Founding Father' terms rather than in terms of the real people and issues involved. We hope to give our students a genuine insight into the personalities and the events of our Revolution by 'humanizing' history."

The college has lined up plenty of interesting ways to bring history to life. To give students a feeling for the colonial lifestyle, for example, they will visit the country's oldest tavern and sample colonial fare like "red flannel hash." Another time they

will participate in a candlelight soiree similar to the one held 200 years ago to honor our newly acquired French allies. The whole program is calculated to set them back 200 years.

"We're even going to visit Mystic Seaport in Mystic, Connecticut, to learn about the seafaring way of life in the colonies," says Magee. "But instead of driving down, we're planning to sail from Newport to Mystic on a chartered schooner. After all, how else are we going to learn how John Paul Jones really felt."

There's more to the program than climbing a yardarm, however. Every Monday through Thursday morning there will be a series of discussions on some aspect of the Revolution. Afternoons and weekends will be free for study, field trips or exploring colonial Newport.

Yet, even the more traditional aspects of the program have their innovations. High school seniors can participate in the program and receive college credit, for example. Later, when they enroll in college, Salve Regina will transfer their credits to the college of their choice.

Additionally, students can elect to receive their credits in history, political science, economics or education. "This gives each student a tremendous amount of freedom to explore our Revolution from a point of view that interests him," says Magee. "An economics major may normally pass up such a course because he needs credits in economics, not history. But since we are going to look at the Revolution from a multi-disciplinary

point of view, a business major can study the Revolution from an economic vantage point and get his credits in economics. The same is also true with the other academic areas."

While the program tries to recreate colonial lifestyles, Salve's method of evaluation for students in the program is anything but colonial. Eighteenth century schools were notably rigid and formal. Testing was a must, usually by reciting from rote memory. At Salve, however, students can choose their own method of evaluation. They can write a paper, give an in-class presentation, or take an oral review.

"If someone is a teacher," adds Magee, "he can make teaching units for his class. Or, if he is a musician, dancer, painter, or artist of any sort, he can give us an interpretation of the Revolution in his art form. And, if he wants to, a student can even take an old fashioned exam."

Salve is opening its Bicentennial Program to everyone interested in our Revolution. Participants don't have to be current college students. Anyone can enroll.

"We hope to enroll people interested in the Bicentennial, regardless of whether they are teachers, college students, housewives or high school seniors," says Magee. "What's more, they can even receive four college credits for participating. But the major attraction of the course will be the opportunity to explore colonial America as we bring history back to life. It's a chance to take part in America while participating in what we think will be one of the most fascinating courses available on