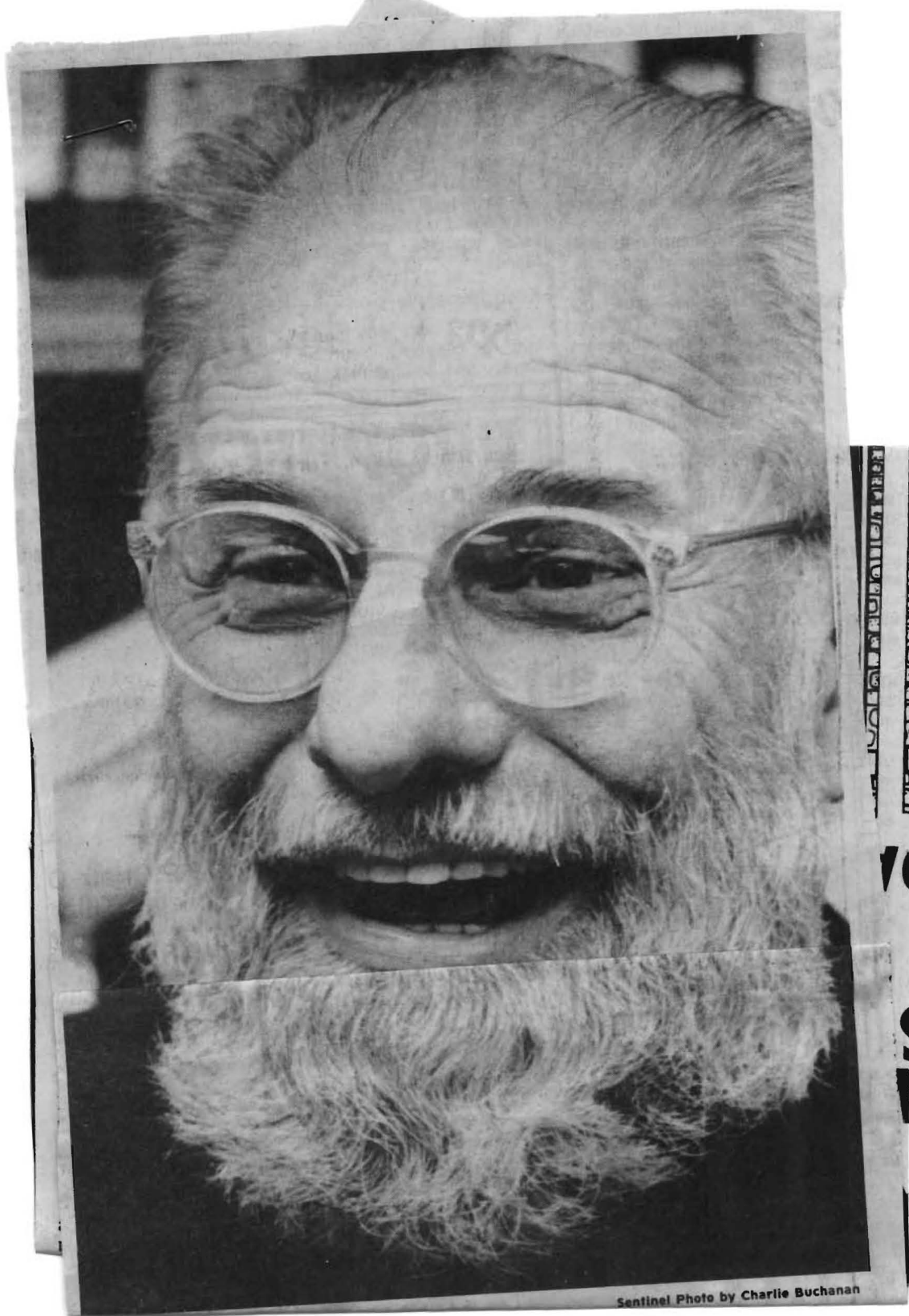




Sentinel Photo by Charlie Buchanan

Ecumenical Institute Head Is Both a Lawyer and Monk

Sentinel 3-23-84

See Director, Page 19

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he said, it stretches back to the days of "Peter and Paul," arguing over where he church was going . . . I think the way of Christ i to m. Sunday, and in series on "The idea of bringing together all of Christ in it. Who Is Jesus of minister of education for the South- Robin Hood Road, led by the Rev. rish." 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at St. continue their joint Lenten series, d Parkway United Churches of imach

Asked to identify him on a videotape of the Carthen said, "I'm the good-looking one with white hair on." The ju exploded with laughter. Keith asked him to put out another person on tape. "That's the broad I we talking about over there."

"I said Bob," he eye.
Carthen looked him witness," Bell complai
"Objection to lead! and Carthen agreed.
Friedman, Keith sug remember the last
Bob," he said, but he
Arcy, Stations of the Cross and
12:05 p.m. Wednesday

Director Is Monk, Lawyer

Continued from Page 17
ed from the Lamar School of Law at Emory University in 1951. He was in the general practice of law in Savannah until 1957.

Burnett said in an interview yesterday that he had known the Belmont Abbey Benedictines since his teen years when he attended their high school in Savannah. One of them told him there were many ways within the Catholic Church to serve God.

Burnett finally elected to enter the order and become a monk, probably to the astonishment of many, including his mother, he said, laughing.

He entered Belmont Abbey as a postulant in 1957, five months later he was a novice. In 1958, he took his temporary vows and in 1962 he graduated from the abbey's seminary. He took his vows as a Benedictine in 1961 and was ordained a priest in 1962.

Dean of Students

Initially, he was dean of students at the college, while also teaching business law, later he was appointed teacher and assistant pastor at the order's other high school in Richmond, Va., where he served on two occasions.

Back at the college, he was chaplain and assistant professor of business law and constitutional law. In 1970, he was appointed procurator and novice teacher at the abbey. He became full-time director of campus ministry in 1973.

Becoming a monk, he said, was not a way to escape life — "I was still working with human beings and problems and in all human relationships, there are problems."

Actually, he said, both as a lawyer and a monk, he has dealt with people's problems. There is little difference in the law and the church, he explained: "it's all bringing people together in reconciliation."

by Charlie Buchanan

Life's a Journey

He sees his life as a journey in an ecumenical environment. That's why, he said, when he heard Dollard was taking up new work, he let it be known he would be interested in the directorship of the Ecumenical Institute.

"I always like a challenge," he said. "I think you learn that even when you are educated as a lawyer, because you never know who's going to walk into the front door."

While he considers himself in the "listening" stage of learning his new work, he also has some ideas about how he might approach the work.

He does not see ecumenicity as something new; rather, he said, it stretches back to the days of "Peter and Paul, arguing over where the church was going . . . I think the whole spirit of Christ is to bring the world together and I think the whole idea of ecumenism is world, to bring everybody together and be one with Christ."

His Hope

He hopes his contribution to the institute will be to help people look beyond denominational identifications — much as people today are beginning to look beyond racial identification.

"It's just that old cliché that people say: 'If you know one, you know them all,' but it means you don't know any of them. That's what it really means.

"But I think that if we really do know one another we find Christ and we look at them and we see ourselves. We don't see" all these colors and faiths.

He likened introducing people to the concept of ecumenism to a man entering the priesthood. It is a lifetime of learning to live and work with others, people who have their own personalities.

He added, with strong voice, "I don't have any regrets" for having become a monk.

"I am comfortable with myself and my relationship with my Lord."