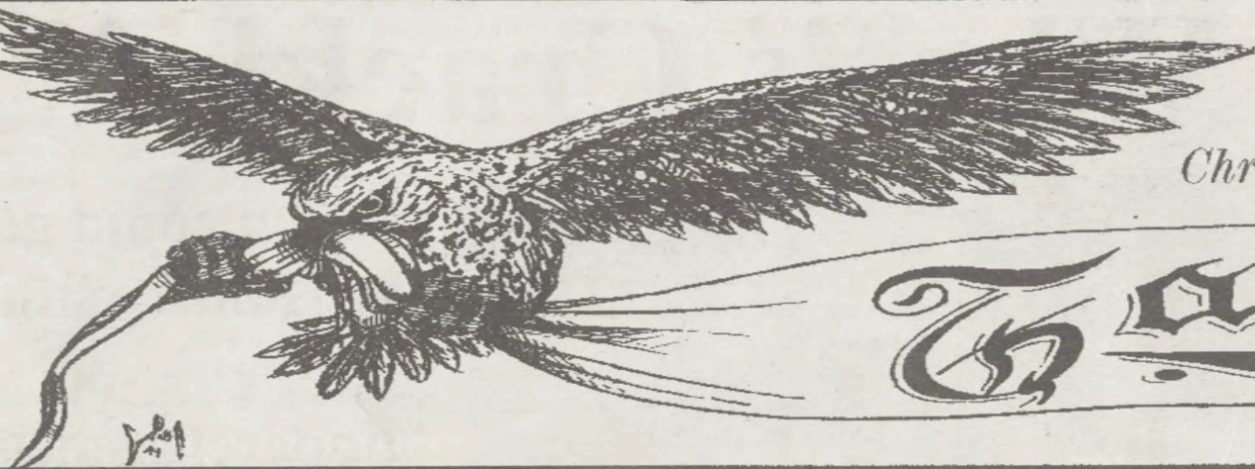


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A tribute to an unforgettable teacher and friend

Emily Page
News Editor

He was known for his corny jokes, his passion for history and his ability to connect with even the most troubled students. Michael Desmond, a beloved Christian Brothers' history teacher for 11 years, was an original.

Mr. Desmond, as everyone called him, died of a heart attack on August 7, 2001, just a week before school started. Although he had not taught full time at CB since suffering a stroke in 1998, he left a lasting impression on his colleagues and students.

"Everyone loved Mr. Desmond. He was personal with the kids; he wasn't just a teacher," said Senior Natalie Valine, who had Mr. Desmond both in summer school and at the beginning of her freshman year

students," commented art instructor Kevin Haag, who considered Mr. Desmond his mentor.

Born in 1937 to the descendants of gold rush pioneers, Mr. Desmond developed a special interest in tracing his family's roots in California. The Desmond clan is responsible for founding the Buffalo Brewery on 21st and Q Streets and for Desmond Road near Franklin Boulevard, named after the family because they were the first inhabitants of the area. Coming from such a colorful background, it is clear where this history teacher's enthusiasm for his subject began.

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