

EXTRA!

The Belles

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OF SAINT MARY'S

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Student Government Is You

HONOR CODE

With a clear understanding of all that the Honor Code implies, I pledge that I will uphold the highest standard of personal integrity in every phase of life at Saint Mary's, and I recognize and accept my responsibility for helping others to live up to that standard.

As a member of the Student Government Association, I pledge my loyal cooperation in fulfilling the responsibilities of student government at Saint Mary's.

Explanation of Honor Code

Each one of us, consciously or unconsciously, lives by an honor code. The Honor Code of Saint Mary's is essentially the same as each girl's personal code except that it carries with it a broad responsibility to every student in the school. The actions of one Saint Mary's girl reflect credit or discredit upon every other member of the student body. It is therefore, our duty not only to accept our own responsibilities, but to encourage others to accept theirs. Only when every student in the school does her part will we have a sound and workable student government.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT DEVELOPS GRADUALLY

Student government has been a gradual growth at Saint Mary's. In its earliest stages, its skeleton organization acted seldom, and then at the request of the president of the school. The organization had little authority. Self-government of students did not exist.

In the spring of 1937, a group of girls under the direction of an interested faculty member worked out a plan for the reorganization with emphasis on student government. They asked for an increase in student authority and planned the administration of all such was given them. Faculty and students agreed upon rules concerning conduct on the halls and students worked out a plan for administering them.

In 1937-38 the Constitution of the Student Government Association was written and adopted.

The Honor Council had formerly been a rather unwieldy body. The Constitution reduced its size and made it the supervising agent of campus affairs with the Hall Council under it. The Legislative Body, composed of 7 faculty members and 15 students, was set up and given authority to pass on petitions to be submitted to the president of the school.

In 1941 the organization of the Hall Council was changed. The chairman was now elected by the whole or-

EDITORIAL

Fledged. I have neither given nor received help. Every day this pledge is carelessly signed to countless papers at Saint Mary's. Although hurriedly scribbled at the end of a test or examination, it is the most important statement on the quiz, the statement that involves the most learning, the statement that symbolizes our honor. For each of us, her name is one of the few things that is hers exclusively. Have I given help? If I have, my name is as corrupt as the statement.

In order to have a more alert and effective Honor

organization and her office became second in importance to that of president of the Student Government Association. The practice of student government pointed to the need for changes in other units of the association as well. The number of faculty members in the Legislative Body was reduced to five. The Honor Council was made still smaller by the elimination of ex-officers and members. Now the Honor Council members, with the exception of the president and vice-president of the student body are elected for the qualities that such work requires.

Hitherto, hall presidents had been elected from each hall. The officers were little more than assistants to the teachers on each hall.

In the spring of 1945 a new plan was formulated whereby hall presidents were to be chosen from the senior class. Teachers could then be relieved of hall discipline. Now only one teacher lives in each building. Students are in authority.

1947-48 lies before us. What shall we make of it?

System we must first have a renaissance of the student body, a "rebirth" of the meaning of honor to us, a realization that "our own hearts, and no other man's opinions, form our Honor Code."

But our responsibility extends beyond the bounds of our own actions. It embraces the honor of others. In our conception of the Honor System must be the realization of an ever-present sense of duty toward every other student of Saint Mary's, now and in the future.

We must realize that if we should be in the position of having to report another student for a violation of the Honor Code, we do not place a permanent blot on her character. Rather, we give her the help she needs to grasp fully the fundamentals of right and wrong.

If we can maintain a high standard of both personal honor and responsibility for others, we will build, not only for ourselves, but also for every future Saint Mary's girl, a vital Honor System.

Personal honor lies with each individual. The Honor Code lies with each member of the association. It is ours. What shall we do with it?