

TO THE STUDENT BODY

Quite often the complaint "Why don't Saint Mary's organizations function properly?" is heard about the campus. BELLES would like to investigate this problem and discover the reason for the weakness behind student activities. We would like to present our opinions upon the matter and also to ask our readers if they have anything to add to what we say here.

One of the chief reasons for this laxness is the lack of interest among the students, themselves. And why this great lack of interest? Is it because studies take up too much time? Is it because student activities are frowned upon? BELLES does not believe either of these statements to be true. Frankly, we believe that the answer lies in the fact that the whole student body is just plain lazy. "No, we don't like this rule, but we couldn't get it changed if we tried. Besides, we can get around it, and nobody will ever know the difference." "This article in the BELLES is atrocious, but I don't know anything about writing. So why should I bother to express my unwanted opinion." "This organization could be helped by a suggestion I have, but only one or two people run it. So, of course, they won't listen to me." These are student excuses for their lack of interest. But have they really tried to express their ideas? If they have, we feel sure that they have found an open ear to all their problems and suggestions. The Legislative Body, with its petitions, offers any number of opportunities for voice in student government. BELLES offers its avenue of student expression through its "Letters to the Editor" column. This column is for criticism, suggestions, and questions on anything from BELLES articles to student attitudes and preferences. And as for other organizations, the only reason they are run by that one or two is that you, the student, have refused your help and suggestions.

Another answer to our problem has been expressed before but has not been stressed far, far enough. The fact that many students join activities and accept offices without accepting the responsibilities that go along with these duties has weakened student organizations considerably. Students do not seem to realize that by joining student activities they take upon themselves a job which they must carry out to their fullest ability. Students are only fooling themselves if they believe they are adding to their prestige by participation in student activities. These activities mean nothing if the participants are not willing to work for this privilege.

BELLES believes the observations made in this editorial reveal only a few of the reasons why student backing in organizations is poor. We would like to hear from our readers on this subject. And remember, we're always open to any suggestions.

WATCH YOUR TELEPHONE MANNERS

The problem of telephone management and manners is becoming a serious one at Saint Mary's. In spite of warnings, students continue to misuse telephone privileges. The present situation is extremely inconvenient and annoying to all but those who do take advantage of phone rules.

A bad aspect of the telephone problem, that of charging long-distance calls to the school, has recently been brought to the attention of the student body. It is an understood rule that students may not charge personal phone calls to the school. Those who do so deliberately are showing disrespect for the school and are damaging the trust put in them, not to mention the unnecessary work such calls cause the business staff.

Bad telephone manners is an aspect of which students are continually aware. Girls who make unnecessary calls, monopolize phones, and refuse to cut short their calls when asked by the operator are a nuisance to all. It is regrettable that there are not more outside telephone lines, but this is an inconvenience of which we must make the best. As in any other situation involving a group, courtesy and consideration for others are required. To monopolize phones and pay no attention to operators, who are serving you and others, is inexcusably rude. It is a great shame that students must be not only continually reminded of such simple courtesies, but also threatened with punishments for not observing them.

The simple cause of the telephone problem is selfishness and thoughtlessness on the part of certain students. These few are causing a great inconvenience to the student body and the business staff. They *must* learn to be thoughtful and courteous in their use of the phones, as they are in other aspects of school life. When they do, there will no longer be a telephone problem.

BELLES Interviews New High School English Teacher, Mrs. Gordon Poole

Mrs. Gordon Poole, who teaches freshman and sophomore English and American History at Saint Mary's, has lived in Raleigh almost all of her life. She was born in Massachusetts but moved to Raleigh when she was twelve years old. She graduated from Raleigh High School and Meredith College. She received her Masters Degree from Oberlin College. After teaching at Meredith for six years, she married Gordon Poole. For the next several years they lived in Vermont and New York, where Mr. Poole

was a minister. They have four children—three boys, Joe, Davie, and Johnny, and a little girl, Barbara. In 1950 they returned to Raleigh, where Mr. Poole became administrator of Saint Agnes Hospital.

In addition to her family and her teaching duties, Mrs. Poole is a member of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church and president of the Raleigh Council of Church Women. The BELLES is glad to welcome Mrs. Poole as a new member of the faculty of Saint Mary's.

Have You Heard This?

Mr. Moore's classes often provide a few hilarious surprises, but the latest even surprised the teacher, himself, Mr. Moore, while discussing a period of literary importance, asked the following question: "And what historical battle was fought during this period?"

One of his smart and very eager students innocently asked, "Wasn't this the War of the Four Roses, Mr. Moore?"

Mr. Moore, among shrieks of laughter, quipped back, "And what battle was that?"

Discussion between two faculty members:

Dr. Browne: "Since you and Mr. Moore are the most well-informed members of our faculty, would you participate in our assembly quiz program on Tuesday?"

Mr. Broughton: "Did you say informed or deformed?"

A few stories have been circulating around Saint Mary's for years. With no idea of their authenticity, this column presents them to its readers.

First, there is the boy who came to the front door of Saint Mary's and knocked, no less. Miss Hucklebuck (any resemblance to persons, living or dead, is purely intentional) went to the door, and there she beheld a boy dressed in blue jeans and a plaid shirt (no tie). He held a piece of straw in his mouth and a carpet bag in his hand. Miss Hucklebuck, in her usual polite and interested manner, asked sweetly, "May I help you?"

The character replied, "Is this here State College?"

Then there is the one about the night a huge, white ambulance pulled up in front of Saint Mary's. Two young internes and a young lady stepped out. They walked in the front door and straight up the steps of Smedes. The students in Smedes, upon seeing two young internes, fled excitedly to their rooms. One brave soul ventured out and asked what the three were doing there. One interne looked at the girl frantically and asked, "Isn't this Dix Hill?"

BELLES Author Tells Worries of Writing

Have you ever tried to write an article for the BELLES? Have you ever been asked to write, not a plain old news article, but something original, just sparkling with wit? If you have, you utter a strong protest: "But, I'm not original, I'm not wit—"

"Oh, goodness, honey, it's easy. Just stretch your imagination to the utterly ridiculous. Have it in tomorrow night by 6:30. Thanks loads," is the reply.

The door slams, and you are left with a feeling of utter desolation. But, one must do his duty; so you sit down and rack your brain. The clock ticks by; the homework is unfinished; the imagination just won't function; and the article isn't written. With a rather baffled look in your eye, you remember the parting words, "Oh goodness, honey, it's easy. Just use your imagination."

The Belles

OF SAINT MARY'S

Published every two weeks during school year by the student body of Saint Mary's School.

Entered as second class matter December 7, 1944, at Post Office, Raleigh, N. C., under Act of March 3, 1879.

Subscription \$1.00 a Year

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So you imagine. You imagine juicy steaks dripping with butter, a crisp green salad with your favorite dressing, strawberry shortcake, spring vacations, chocolate cake, the beach, fried chicken, summertime, broiled lobster tails, home, a soft bed, sleep. You imagine sleep too vividly; as a result you fall asleep. You wake up the next morning in time for breakfast.

You dash through all your classes and your afternoon lab. You have one hour to bathe and dress, eat supper, write your BELLES article and have it typed. In your mad dash, you slip on the soap in the tub, hobble out painfully, get dressed, run three pairs of stockings, spill powder in your top drawer which is carelessly left open, and finally prepare to write.

You just can't think, but finally you write down a few trite sentences and prepare to copy. You forget to go by the *Style Book*. You copy again. You spill ink on your copy.

You copy again. You go to find a typist. She's dating. By using the "hunt and peck" system you type it yourself. You must finish. You miss supper. Time flies by, but finally, around 8 o'clock, you run with a painful limp down to the editor's room. She casually tells you, "Oh, you're too late. We won't be able to use your article this time."

You let your bruised body just wilt on the bed. Oh well, anything for the BELLES.