

"... AND SUDDENLY
IT'S SPRING!"

The Belles

OF ST. MARY'S

CONGRATULATIONS,
NEW SGA
OFFICERS!

Vol. XVI, No. 11

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

March 26, 1954

Adlai Stevenson's First Stop in N. C.



Stevenson Takes St. Mary's By Storm

Amid a host of excited, clamorous, thronging admirers, Adlai Stevenson, Democratic nominee in the last presidential election, made a non-scheduled and unprecedented visit to St. Mary's Junior College March 23. Forsaking all party prejudices, Republicans willfully joined the Democratic enthusiasts in extending a fervent welcome to Mr. Stevenson.

Eagerly Await Visit

En route to a ten-day rest in Southern Pines and a speaking engagement in Charlotte on April 2, Stevenson arrived at the Raleigh-Durham Airport about 1:30 p.m. News of his expected arrival had reached C. A. P. Moore, adviser to the Young Democrats of St. Mary's, earlier in the day. He immediately contacted Mr. E. L. Rankin, Jr., secretary to the Governor and requested that Mr. Stevenson be escorted through St. Mary's campus since it was within range of their route from the airport to the Executive Mansion where Governor Umstead awaited a brief visit with the celebrated dignitary. Receiving an encouraging word from Mr. Rankin, Mr. Moore made a rapid connection with the student body to inform them of the possibility of

1952 Presidential Candidate, En Route To Governor's Mansion, Thrills Girls With Impromptu Speech, Handshaking

Mr. Stevenson's tour around the campus. Wild bursts of enthusiasm and applause greeted his announcement. Excitement soared higher when Dr. Richard G. Stone, president of St. Mary's, granted permission for classes to disband at the expected time of his arrival.

Scores of girls flooded the campus many moments before his appearance. Precautions were made in case the Governor's chauffeur failed to signal for a turn into the college grounds. Forty or more thrilled students lined up, prepared to form a barricade across Hillsboro Street if the awaited event called for it.

Suddenly an hysterical, rhythmic chant arose, "Here comes Adlai, here comes Adlai," as a majestic, gleaming black Cadillac sedately proceeded down Hillsboro. Approaching St. Mary's gates, the chauffeur's signal to turn served an additional purpose, for a vehement cry of welcome exploded instantaneously.

As the Number One car, followed by an escort of press agents and members of the UNC Young Democrats Club, rounded the entrance, it quickly disappeared under a swarm of the tumultuous receptionists. Stevenson gallantly obliged his fair admirers by shaking hands with them as the car crept around the campus drive. Stevenson's hand, too, was invisible under the mound of hands that passionately clamped down upon it.

Car Forced to Stop

One girl, having shaken hands with him, was overheard to say breathlessly as she stared down at her own hand, "I won't wash it for a month."

Eager to catch a glimpse of him, those who could not reach inside the car, followed it around the drive and controlled the pace of the car. When it reached the main building the crush became so great that the chauffeur was forced to stop, although no stop was planned.

The climax of the event soon exploded when the car door opened and Mr. Stevenson stepped out. He handsomely acknowledged his welcome and charmed his audience. "I think you are sweet to have come out to greet me," he said beneath a bright, broad smile. "I am delighted that we stopped, but I was told we wouldn't be able to. Now, I see why; I don't think they trusted me. After this greeting from all you lovely girls, I can't understand why my folks ever moved from N. C.," he continued. Dr. Stone, from his stand in the crowd, retaliated, "Then you must come back." Stevenson thanked him heartily and expressed a desire to return. Another girl, looking up at him in adoration, was overheard to comment, "Oh, I could marry him."

Stevenson good-naturedly waved and re-entered the car. The girls followed him in a surging throng until the big Cadillac left the campus. Although his visit is now a thing of the past, the event lives on vividly within the halls of St. Mary's. Excitement lingers and amazement increases at the thought that Adlai Stevenson actually spoke on St. Mary's Campus.