

Editorials

Oh, Give Us Schools, Lots of Schools Where Week-ends Are Week-ends; Don't Fence Us In

Although college faculties and officials are sometimes reluctant to admit it, week-ends are one of the most important times in school life. Certainly girls are interested in their studies, but life can become pretty dull when a girl has stuck faithfully to her books for five or six days in succession. This is where week-ends come in; in fact, this is when week-ends are needed. The opinion of the *Belles* and of many girls picked at random on campus is that week-ends at St. Mary's are restrained by assignments which are given Thursday to be handed in on Saturday or Monday. If a girl has planned to leave school on Friday for a week-end, it is humanly impossible for her to prepare a big assignment given on Thursday, the day before her scheduled departure, and to hand it in on Friday before she leaves. Teachers who make such assignments seem to forget that besides her inalienable rights of having time to pack and groom herself for the short leave, she also has a daily assignment to prepare for each of her classes Friday.

In view of the fact that girls are allowed only one week-end a semester, it seems only logical that the privilege of being able to take a week-end would be accompanied by the privilege of being allowed to take it in a considerable state of leisure and peace of mind. Many a week-end, long anticipated, has been ruined by the thought of a test missed on Saturday or of an important paper due on Monday. Even when week-ends are spent on campus, they should be times when students could have a chance to do the inevitable "catching up" or getting a little ahead, rather than laboring over "stiff" Thursday-Saturday or Monday assignments.

This is *not* complaining for the sake of complaining. It is a sincere effort in the interest of the students to point out to teachers an injustice of which they are more than likely unaware. Students *want* to get their work done, and they want to do their best on it. Neither the accomplishment nor the success of their work is allowed fair treatment when all is piled on them at once. Human nature must be considered here—of course, there will be a certain amount of excitement on the part of the week-ender. The combination of excitement and a last minute grueling assignment produces unsatisfactory results.

This problem is brought to light *not* to try to "get students out of anything," but to ask teachers to refrain from making big, grade-influencing assignments on Thursday to be due Saturday or Monday, particularly when the weekend is the kind St. Mary's girls refer to as "big"—UNC German dances, for instance. In case of two or three girls being absent for Saturday classes, no teacher can imagine the appreciation the whole student body would feel if allowance would be arranged privately when girls who are taking weekends are in the minority, and publicly when girls who are taking weekends are in the majority. In behalf of the students, *Belles* wishes to say that neither it nor the students hold radical convictions on the matter, but that we all *do* feel deeply about it. We are more than eager to hear another side to the problem. M. G.

St. Mary's Observes Founders' Day; Birthday Marks Changes in School Life

Founders' Day, November 1, is the day appointed to observe the birthday of St. Mary's. St. Mary's is one hundred and thirteen years old this year. Birthdays, as you know, are milestones—times for looking back and times for looking ahead.

With a great deal of pride, and yet with a smile, we recall the opening days of this "school for young ladies in the city of Raleigh." The original thirteen scholars were provided ". . . a thorough and elegant education, equal to the best that could be obtained in any Northern school." Among the courses offered was ornamental needle work. Instead of a fast set of tennis these first students exercised by walking daily five times around the grove. Saturday evenings were spent at "musical exercises."

How different it seems today! But changes in the physical plant, in organization, in administration, are signs of growth and adjustment, not of alteration of purpose. St. Mary's grows finer as the years go by.

At this anniversary, we look back over the great contributions alumnae have made to civic, family, and national life. It is right that on Founders' Day we should take stock and review with pride the accomplishments of this school, but this is not enough. We should also look forward with anticipation and make plans as to how we can cooperate with the school to enable it to have an even greater future.

We feel a responsibility to take full advantage of the abundant opportunities offered by the Chapel, the classrooms, the athletic fields, and other phases of St. Mary's life so that we, as St. Mary's girls of the past have done, may lead lives of high purpose and of service to others.

An abundant heritage is ours for the taking. Let us give of ourselves as a birthday present to St. Mary's. M. J. P.

disCHORDS

by Anne Norman

There's good news in store for Stan Kenton fans and all lovers of jazz. Raleigh will play host to Stan Kenton at Memorial Auditorium on Thursday night, November 11.

Art Tatum will be featured on the piano; the Charlie Ventura Quintette and vocalist Mary Ann McCall are additional highlights in the performance. Kenton will conduct the large orchestra, and the "Festival of Modern American Jazz" should reach its usual level of outstanding entertainment.

Performers Panic

Here's an interesting sidelight on the show featuring Peggy Lee which played in town recently. An ambulance owner from Durham drove a Johns Hopkins-bound patient to the train station in Raleigh. Just as the driver waved good-bye to the sick man, the train bearing Miss Lee and the other performers pulled in at the station. The show people descended to the platform where they found neither a welcoming committee nor any means of immediate transportation. Spying the nearby ambulance, the ingenious entertainers told the driver of their plight and begged his assistance. The obliging ambulance owner thereupon piled Miss Lee and the others into the vehicle. The ambulance, with lights flashing and siren wailing, quickly carried them to their destination. After depositing the grateful performers at the Auditorium, *gratis*, the driver headed back to Durham.

A few days later this unlucky man was hauled into court. It seems there is a law which states that ambulances carrying people who are in a sound state of health are not expected to tear through towns with open sirens and flashing red lights.

For his thoughtless (and fee-less) good deed this ambulance owner will probably pay accordingly. He is reportedly bitter about the whole episode, but under what circumstances could he have obtained a more intimate glimpse into the harried life of show business?

Spooks of Smedes

Listen my students, and if you heed I'll tell of the night walks of Dr. Smede.

Just before daybreak his chains start to clank.

The sounds make you shiver from shoulder to shank.

With hisses and rattles and bangings and bumps,

Up from the basement to the attic he stumps.

Was there a knock at the window?
A creak on the stair?

Feel his breath on your neck?
There's a gleam—He's right there!
For on each anniversary of All-hallows Eve,

He makes his inspection, his mind to relieve.

So you'd better be good, belles, and not stay out late,

For the Smede's ghost will get you if you don't play it straight.

The Belles OF ST. MARY'S

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AT THE THEATERS

(Oct. 31-Nov. 22)

AMBASSADOR

7-13 **A Star Is Born**
Judy Garland, James Mason
14-20 **Drumbeats.** Alan Ladd

COLONY

31-12 **Brigadoon**
Gene Kelly, Van Johnson
12 **Beau Brummell**
Elizabeth Taylor
Stewart Granger

STATE

7-13 **Sitting Bull**
Dale Robertson, Mary Murphy

VILLAGE

7-20 **It's a Woman's World**
Clifton Webb

VARSITY

3- 6 **Roman Holiday**
Gregory Peck, Audrey Hepburn
Stalag 17. William Holden
7-10 **Gone With the Wind**
Clark Gable, Vivian Leigh