

## Editorials

## School Spirit Is a Complex Term; Once the Meaning Is Grasped, It's Simple

- Does it matter to you if our campus is trashy?  
Do you care whether or not the Sigma's or Mu's win their contests?  
Do you support school dances?  
Do you take pride in reading or helping to publish your school publications?  
Are you conservative about spreading your gripes off campus?  
Do you participate wholeheartedly in extra-curricular activities?  
In other words, do you have school spirit?

A direct, personal approach is used here simply because the subject is a direct, personal subject. *You* and *only* you can bring about school spirit. Quite frankly, school spirit is hard to define, for it's a kind of abstract thing; yet we *can* feel it, hear it, and see it. In fact, the reign of this spirit is the most noticeable attribute a school can offer. Possessing and showing school spirit adds far more to the beauty and reputation of a school than having a luxuriously furnished parlor and hallway does. Any furniture manufacturer can make our surface appearance good, but only a *very special* manufacturer can produce that quality that gives our underneath appearance the warmth, the appeal, and the dignity a school such as St. Mary's deserves.

The aspects of participation and self-sacrifice that constitute school spirit are delicate when being undertaken, but once achieved, they become the firm foundations on which St. Mary's may rest. These aspects are presented to us daily in various forms.

Shall I go to my class meeting or go smoke a cigarette?

Shall I go to the YRC meeting or go to the little store?

Shall I write my article for a publication now or wait until one of the editors comes after me?

Neither do these inquiries stop on the first question. Suppose you *do* decide to take the former action. To what extent are you going to give of yourself? Some people feel that they are doing their duty by merely attending meetings, *etc.*, or by simply writing their assignments. No, indeed, that's only the beginning! School spirit requires willingness to attend, then interest enough to act, determination enough to attain the very highest goal in the particular field, and *above all* pride in what you're doing.

St. Mary's is not the faculty's school or Dr. Stone's school; it's ours. It will be what we make it. The job of maintaining the high ideals St. Mary's has stood for and has exemplified in her past is a big one. We *are* equal to the task, but *are* we equal to the challenge the task offers? In preparing assignments, in upholding the Honor Code, in keeping the rules of the Hall Council, school spirit is the key that will open for us all doors of opportunity and worth.

M. G.

## Belles Implores Students to Abandon Barbaric Behavior During Concerts

Just between us girls . . . It's funny how girls of our sophistication and maturity so willingly subject themselves to criticism and ridicule as *children* or *juveniles*. The fact has been known for centuries upon centuries that women glory in making favorable impressions, that they naturally prefer to maintain a secret air of superiority. Well, if we'll all admit these feminine motives, how come we continue to allow ourselves to be associated with the division over bad conduct at civic music concerts? Where is our pride?

No sight could be more hypocritical than a group of well-dressed, demure, cultured-looking girls who, under cover of darkness, assume the behavior of barbarians. To people who go to civic music concerts to hear and enjoy the program, we appear as uncivilized as any cannibal who ever licked his chops. The discouraging part is that the people who notice ill-manners once remember them time and time again. One quick impression lasts forever.

This Tuesday night St. Mary's is confident that each of her girls will undertake to abolish once and for all, all causes for future criticism from public, faculty or student sources who think St. Mary's girls are ill-behaved.

M. G.

## Late Library Rules, Demerits Appall Students

*Belles* feels that it would have been much fairer if the librarians had confronted the students with the new library rules at the beginning of the term instead of eight weeks later.

The students tremble at the thought that the desire to hold authority to issue demerits (as set forth in item one of the library rules on page 1) may become contagious among the faculty.

The library has obviously progressed in every aspect in past years without the use of demerits. WHY HAVE THEM NOW?

A. N.

## "Week-ends-That-Are-Not-Week-ends" Editorial Gains Student Praise

Dear BELLES,

I wholeheartedly approve of the editorial printed in the last issue of *Belles*. I have heard some misinterpretations of the point the article was trying to convey. Obviously, the readers who believed the goal of the students is to get unlimited week-ends missed the point of the article. The editorial merely advocated clemency and reasonable discretion on the part of the teachers in assigning papers and very lengthy assignments for Saturday or Monday so that students taking a week-end, an event which occurs only *twice* a year, can get enough rest before they leave to enjoy the week-end. Last week-end I spent twelve hours preparing work for one class on Saturday. This meant that I had to scrimp on the time allotted to the other subjects.

Is it so unreasonable to implore our faculty to make heavy assignments so that they are due some time during the middle of the week? Or, if teachers prefer a Saturday deadline, the solution to our problem rests in the act of merely assigning the papers more than two days ahead of the deadline. I have heard many a student cancel a week-end engagement because of one of these sudden assignments. I make a personal plea, which is substantiated by the general opinion of the student body, to *please* give time-consuming, grade-influencing assignments so that they are due Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday or give them far enough in advance to allow for adequate preparation.

A Senior

Dear BELLES editor,

I sincerely approve of the editorial that came out in the last issue of the *Belles*. If the faculty would only realize that it is not more week-ends that the students want, but not as much homework to hand in for Saturday, the students would be eternally grateful.

Last week it took me ten hours to prepare my work for one subject. Therefore, I did not have time to prepare my other lessons for Saturday. Please, teachers, have a little mercy on the girls who take one of their very few week-ends and want to enjoy it instead of having to think about all the work they have to do before they leave on Friday and after they return on Sunday.

A Student

## Slump vs Up-Straight

Little Miss Slump  
Sat all in a hump  
In a heap that looked only so high.  
No one could see her,  
Much less want to be her  
As she cried, "What a wall flower  
am I!"

Little Miss Up-Straight  
Sat looking quite sedate  
Holding a lovely bouquet.  
Up came Miss Slump  
Drooping all in a lump  
And frightened Miss Up-Straight  
away.

Dear M.G.,

May I commend you on your excellent editorial in the *Belles* of October 29. I am convinced that your convictions about excessive work over the week-ends are the sentiments of the entire student body and that the improvement of this situation is pertinent to the maintaining of school spirit, and, in general, a good attitude.

There is no need for further elaboration on the subject, as you have already covered it thoroughly and well. But may I say too, that we are not trying to get out of any work. It's just that we students are still very young, and a little fun and relaxation over the week-ends plays an important part in broadening our educations just as our studies do. When we have so much work assigned over the week-end, it is impossible to leave here and, at the same time, do well on our assignments. If we study all week and all week-end too, would we not become a little stale?

It seems that by your editorial our problem has aroused the sympathy and understanding of at least one member of the faculty. It had been the rule to have our weekly tests on Saturday mornings. When the fact that we students were probably not doing our best work on Saturdays was brought out, this faculty member very condescendingly moved the test from Saturday to a weekday. He even admitted that he had not even considered the idea that we might do better work when we were not excited over leaving for the week-end or over a big date. So by this example we can hope that by the situation being brought to light other members of the faculty may do likewise. We would be grateful.

Perhaps to some the idea that we do get excited over the week-end is a weak and frivolous excuse. But as I mentioned, we are young, and in young people such a feeling of excitement and anticipation is human nature. It cannot be suppressed.

Thank you for bringing our problem to light.

A grateful and hopeful  
student.

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