

## THE BELLES OF ST. MARY'S

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## LETTER HOME

By Mimsie Roberts

Dear Mom,

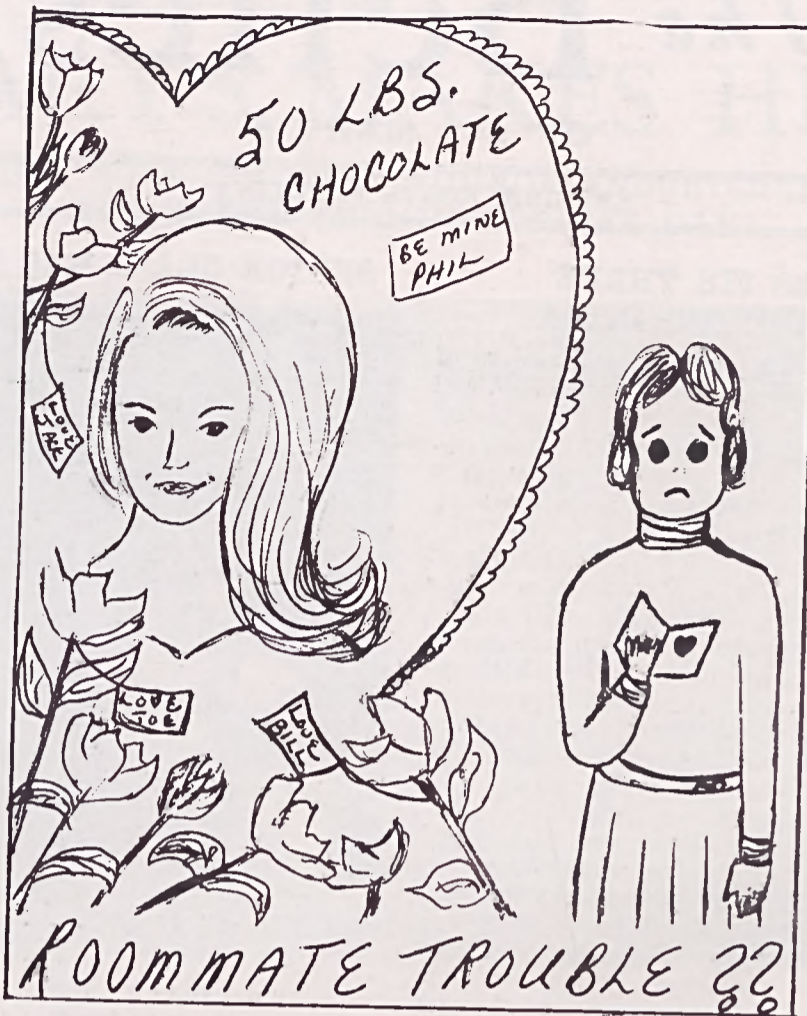
Just thought I would write you a little note of explanation before my semester grades get to you. You see, it really isn't all my fault — about my grades I mean. You can ask anybody here, I stayed up all night every single night of exams studying. It's just that those teachers do not understand how to give a proper exam. For example, my English teacher asked who Anne Hathaway was. Well, I thought she was Mr. Drysdale's secretary on the **Beverly Hillbillies**. My teacher claims that she was Shakespeare's wife. And I didn't even get half credit for my answer. Now, can you understand that?

Anyway, I have found out one thing. You know I never studied very much, and my grades were so great. Then I knocked myself out studying for exams, and look what happened. Mom, studying ruined me. It completely shot my great average.

I have one favor to ask you. Please see if you can catch my grades before Dad gets them. You know how upset he gets over little things like this. I would hate for him to have another one of his breakdowns over a silly matter like my semester grades.

You know Mom, I sure am fortunate to have a mother that I can depend on. I know you won't be mad about my grades because you understand. You do understand, don't you?

Love,  
Barbara



## EDITORIALS

### THE "NEW YEAR" DAWNS

As you returned to St. Mary's campus after semester break, you unconsciously began your New Year here. The mistakes, bad grades, and poor choices of the first semester were gone, and in their stead was a clean, unblemished space to be marked accordingly, at your command.

Many dreams have vanished, and many fears have materialized during your first semester, but with these, you gained invaluable knowledge about the realities of college life. You arrived at St. Mary's in the fall with visions of the glorious football week ends, fraternity parties, and college men: no doubt you were disappointed when you came face to face with your "visions." You found that a great deal of your college life concerned "studying," not "partying," and that HE was as hard to come by as an A on an English theme. You plodded along, made your mistakes, and wondered.

Now all that is behind you, for you've survived that horrid first semester. Now you can prove how much you have learned in five exceptionally long months.

Now is the time to buckle down and study if your average left something to be desired. Regardless of what some may say, all is not lost if you will only take advantage of your mistakes and try to do better.

To many of you, college may seem hopeless at the moment. But in a short time, spring will be here, St. Mary's will be green again, classes will move outdoors, and perhaps HE will come along, to help add a new tint in your view of college life and studies.

M G W

### WHY THE DELAY?

Toward the end of the first semester, a matter of great concern for most of the student population at St. Mary's was the scheduling of final examinations. Of course, everyone knew the week of exams, but no one knew the actual days when each exam would take place. And, because of this, each girl was unaware of the exact date she could leave for semester break.

Students were kept in the dark until twelve days before exams began: consequently, this hampered their efforts to secure reservations and to reach their vacation destinations. Neighboring schools had their semester breaks simultaneously with St. Mary's; thus, their students were also traveling. They had known their schedules a much longer time and were able to plan for transportation accordingly, a happy situation in which many St. Mary's students, inconvenienced by long waits and impromptu modes of transportation, did not find themselves. Thus, securing reservations is a major reason that the full examination schedule should be posted earlier.

Not only is the posting of exams necessary for securing reservations, but also because many girls have to make doctor and dentist appointments during their semester break. How can this be done when the schedules are not known until twelve days in advance? Today, it is almost impossible to obtain an appointment under three months in advance, much less twelve days!

The second major reason why schedules should be displayed earlier is to allow the girls to be able to plan their advance concentrated studying more in accordance with their schedules. For those unfortunate enough to have two exams on any given day or four exams in a row, the exam schedule would be of particular aid in determining their study time to be allotted beforehand.

The students of much larger schools are granted the privilege of knowing their schedules far, far in advance of twelve days. St. Mary's students, too, would like this favor.

P M J — J M B

## FOCUS ON THE APARTMENT

By Jessica Gillespie

St. Mary's needs to take a look at the apartment rule. The rule is one which puts many girls in awkward situations with dates, increases lying, and insults to the mature girl who feels that she can be trusted. The apartment rule needs revision if it is impossible to do away with it completely.

Many girls' schools comparable to St. Mary's are a great deal more liberal concerning the apartment rule. Queens College, a privately owned Presbyterian college in Charlotte, has no apartment rule. The girls may go to motels and are allowed to have parties in apartments. Sales of college girls cannot go to apartments in the Winston Salem city, but they may enter them elsewhere. Sullins College has an apartment rule. Mary students may go to an apartment if three people in all are present.

The St. Mary's apartment rule should be revised for several reasons. Boys seem to be having an exodus from dormitory apartments. Why should they go out and spend money at a home? It is difficult to tell if that you are sorry but you go somewhere else. Perhaps a valid apology to have to give when you are the only couple present. It seems rather ridiculous to have two or three other couples present.

A solution of the rule would be easy to effect. One drawback from the high school department's involvement in the enforcement of the restriction is that it is true that high school students should not be permitted in apartments. However, in the years we came to St. Mary's College not St. Mary's School. Sixteen to Twenty Year Olds are in college, and there is no logical reason why we cannot be subject to the same regulations as other coeds. If necessary, the college and high school departments should have separate rules.

The rule can be changed to the satisfaction of most and still reasonably insure the dignity of the girl and of St. Mary's. It is quite reasonable to allow a girl to go to apartment parties if at least one or even two other couples are present.

It is unreasonable to believe that the current rule will prevent a girl from using an apartment for the wrong reason. If she is looking for a place to be with her date, she will find it. It is unfair to restrict those who have legitimate reasons for going to an apartment. Therefore, it would seem that a complete view of the apartment rule is in order.