

THE BELLES OF ST. MARY'S

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STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Belles encourages student participation in the publication of the newspaper. It encourages students outside the immediate staff to write news and feature articles. Students may express opinions about situations on and off campus. They may express legitimate complaints and may make suggestions for improvements.

This year *The Belles* encourages articles which explore the world beyond Hillsborough Street, NCSU, and Chapel Hill. It is felt that articles on contemporary issues would be of interest to the students. *The Belles* also invites replies and rebuttals to the articles it prints.

Any article must be turned to the editor-in-chief or other editors. It must be typed or legibly written, and the maximum length is two typed pages. All articles must be signed. The right is reserved not to publish any article written in bad taste. *The Belles* is happy to extend this opportunity to the students; please use it!

Assembly Schedule

- Sept. 29 - Mr. Henry Witten - raising money for SMJC
- Oct. 1 - Mrs. Bailey - Scottish History
- Oct. 6 - Presidents of Beacon and Circle
- Oct. 8 - Cold Cuts Induction
- Oct. 13 - Dooley Foundation - Airline Stewardess from Eastern Organization of Overseas Stewardesses
- Oct. 15 - Mrs. Scoggin's trip (archeology)

PRESIDENT PISANI'S LETTER TO ST. MARY'S STUDENTS

September 9, 1970

TO: *The Belles* Box 73
From: President's Office, St. Mary's Junior College

Dear Girls:

Our *Belles* editor has asked me to write a letter to the student body in each issue this year. I have agreed to do this. There are several things I want very much to share with you all. However, I feel it more important to address myself to subjects of concern to you.

Therefore, I invite any member of the St. Mary's family to make known to me any subject she feels would be of interest for this letter.

This could lead to dialogue in open meetings with students. I cannot help but feel it will open up communication and thereby enrich life at St. Mary's.

A letter invites an answer. Subjects covered may evoke disagreement. If so, fine! Honest, constructive reaction is always welcome.

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For openers in this first issue I want to make some observations about the honor system at St. Mary's and its implications.

Traditionally the honor system or code has been at the very heart of the way that life is lived in this community. Lying, cheating, and stealing have been and are abhorrent in this place. Trust has been placed in each girl to report herself for violations of the code of this school. Further, the honor system requires a girl knowing of her fellow student's violation of the code to "show the girl her fault, explaining to her why she should report herself, and if necessary to report her." I believe it is at this point that some members of this community encounter difficulty.

The label of "tattle-tale" is one that no one wears proudly. An informer is generally characterized unfavorably in movies, dramas, in our society generally. While there is no sense of the "tattle-tale" or informer intended in our system, the implication is there in the minds of some students.

These implications notwithstanding, we must go all the way with the honor system, or abandon it. Admittedly, there are imperfections in this system. Like our democracy, it does

EDITORIAL

In his letter to the student body, Mr. Pisani discussed the honor system. He said that the honor system encourages and develops self-reliance, responsibility and integrity. With this in mind, I would like to discuss certain incidents on campus which are direct breaches of the honor code. I am referring to the stealing of food and ice which occurs in every dorm. Even though there are sufficient warnings on the refrigerator doors that stealing is an honor board offense, and there are names on the food and ice trays, there are excellent odds that there won't be anything left when the owner returns.

This may seem like a petty thing to write an article on. It is not the food and ice themselves being stolen that worries me. Ice cubes are cheap. It is the complete nonchalance with which it is being done. The "thieves" seem to have no qualms about eating someone else's breakfast or lunch. If you threatened to take them to Honor Board, they would probably look puzzled and ask what they had done. Let's get one thing straight: Stealing is stealing. You can go before Honor Board for five ice cubes as easily as for expensive jewelry.

Another sad thing about the situation is that the old girls are as guilty as anyone. Since they are the ones who have lived under the system before, they are the ones who are supposed to be setting an example for the new girls to follow. Is the Honor System letting us down because it doesn't foster the qualities of self-reliance, responsibility, and integrity, or are we letting the Honor System down because we haven't grown up yet? JLD

not work perfectly. So, admitting our system is imperfect let us examine the alternatives.

One alternative is to abandon rules and regulations entirely. If there was no code of conduct in any area of life, we could abandon the honor system. It would be unnecessary for Susy to tell Jane that she should report herself for a violation. One cannot violate that which is not. One cannot break a law that does not exist.

To me this alternative is unthinkable. Such a community would be demonic. When you bring a community into life together on 23 acres of ground - living together, studying, eating - that community must have order. The so-called total freedom of a community without law turns out not to be freedom at all, but rather to be the breeding ground for an order that is terrifying in the extreme. Read history if you don't believe me.

A second alternative would be a virtual police state. In such an arrangement careful policing of the entire life of this community would be carried out by external means. For example, a matron for each hall would conduct regular bed checks, and spot checks on every conceivable phase of dormitory life. Or, proctors brought in from the outside would rigidly watch each examination to be sure that no one was cheating.

This would, to me, be equally intolerable. Such a system affords no opportunity for a person to grow, to develop self-reliance, and a sharper sense of personal responsibility and integrity.

Every detail of our honor system may not suit every member of the community. Indeed, no one would claim the system is perfect, or that it always works. However, faced with the alternatives it seems the best system under which we can live.

Part of any education is making hard decisions and seeking inner resources to help cope with the problem of living together. I pray that the honor system at St. Mary's may strongly motivate us to conquer our problems and to enrich the life of each of us who claims membership in this community.

Faithfully,
Frank W. Pisani

The Bulletin Board

FOR THE PLEASURE and CULTURAL benefit of PENICK AND CRUIK RESIDENTS; concerts, consisting of songs and musical scales, will be emanating FROM THE MUSIC building.

your friends, (!)
The Musicians

by Kay

GIRLS REACT TO COED EDUCATION

"The times they are a changing and with them St. Mary's. This year the school has enrolled its first male student, Steve Lane. This turn of events has led to thoughts and discussions on the value of co-ed schools. What do the girls here think of such an institution?"

For the most part, the girls were quick to reply in favor of such an arrangement. Many girls went on to qualify their feelings. Molly Addison felt that co-ed schools are not good for everybody and that a lot of girls out of high school aren't ready for the responsibilities that come with college. She said they tend to concentrate on dating, not on studying. She added that, at a girls' college, you learn to study and budget your time better. Molly Bridger agreed with Molly, adding, "two years is fine but the more you get sloppy." Other comments went like this: "it broadens your education and makes you more well-rounded," "boys' views are so different," and "I'm looking forward to dressing up some."

Perhaps the all-girl or all-boys schools present an abnormal situation. The major portion of college is devoted to getting a "book" education. Colleges should also prepare us for life, especially to live with other people. Segregated schools deprive students of many useful experiences with others.

SUNDAY CHAPEL CHANGED

This year there will be one Sunday morning church service at 9:00 A.M. The change of time and the discontinuation of the 8:00 A.M. communion service are an effort to join the entire school at the morning worship service. Mr. Hobgood emphasized that for valid and significant reasons the 9:30 A.M. hour was changed, but that this hour was considered the best so the students could have the remainder of the day after the service.

Dates are still invited to attend service. There will be Holy Communion on second and fourth Sunday with three ministers assisting. If anyone has a conflict would sincerely like to attend at other church, she may personally talk to Mr. Hobgood about the conflict.