

## THE BELLES OF ST. MARY'S

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## Woman's Lib Is A Powerful Issue In 1970

One of the most controversial subjects invading conversations is that of Women's Liberation. Such a movement is believed to be needed because women must act collectively to make their grievances heard and acted upon. Women's Lib seeks to change the age-old adage of pity for a single woman and to eliminate the view of a woman as simply an appendage of her husband or boyfriend.

The movement is motivated by resentment at being a reserve labor force, making only 60c for every dollar that a man makes, as well as continuing the work in the home for which no recognition is allowed. The value of a woman is also often limited to that of a sex object — in more ways than one! Women interested in the Lib movement may find sufficient motivation simply from the idea of man as the basic foundation of society — woman as the "other" person.

There are three main issues of the Liberation movement: jobs, child-care, and birth control. Women seek equal pay for equal work and an end to job discrimination. In the area of child care, they wish to establish 24 hour child care centers. By establishing these child care centers, the woman will not be forced to choose between parenthood and a working career.

The birth control issue has probably received the most publicity at this point with the revisions of abortion laws. The Women's Liberation groups feel that a woman has the right to control her own body. In addition to birth control devices and information being made available to the woman, she should also have the choice to terminate an unwanted pregnancy with a safe, legal, and inexpensive abortion.



Dr. Benjamin Denott lectured to the students September 24 on "Imagination in America".

## DR. PISANI'S OPEN LETTER TO THE STUDENTS

October 5, 1970

TO: *The Belles*

FROM: Frank W. Pisani

Events of the past couple of weeks have brought to our attention what we are calling our Decade of Renewal. In the 70's St. Mary's proposes to undertake a program that will deepen and expand the entire life of this place. At the same time we want to have a major campus "face-lifting" restoring our historic old buildings and replacing others.

This is a time of excitement, hope, hard work and big dreams.

Right at the outset, however, we need to re-affirm the right sense of priority. St. Mary's is not a great academic program. Surely the school must continue and expand academics, but it is not an academic program. St. Mary's is not great old buildings, nor new sleek buildings. It must have the venerable Smedes and graceful Chapel. It must build new structures. But neither old or new buildings, or graceful oak trees are St. Mary's.

Then what is St. Mary's?

You! You are St. Mary's. The students. The girls. In your good moments and bad. In your success and

## EDITORIAL

St. Mary's has begun its Decade of Realization. It has acknowledged its deteriorating physical plant and has set to work on an extensive rebuilding program, which was long over due. The realization of present and future demands has come not only in this concrete area, but also in the abstract ideas of moral and social consciousness.

St. Mary's has finally made public acknowledgment of the "now" problems of today's youth. On the issues of sex (that naughty word!) and drugs, St. Mary's has tended to ignore the problems in hopes that they will go away. The nonstudent members of St. Mary's have not readily offered the understanding and the help required by problems in these areas because they unrealistically hope that St. Mary's girls would never dream of experimenting with sex or drugs. To some students this silence may have meant condolence; to others it indicated apathy and Victorian ideals.

This year, and none too soon, the drug problem on and off campus has been recognized and dealt with. Dr. Pisani made the position of the school very clear by employing the Pinkerton Agency and by stating that violators of the drug rule will be both expelled and turned over to the authorities. The guidance department has given booklets to all students in order to inform them about drugs and drug problems.

The school has not taken a stand on sex, but it has made available through the guidance department sex information booklets which objectively and frankly discuss anatomy, contraceptives, and venereal disease. This booklet, while being extremely helpful, does not attempt to moralize or sermonize about premarital sex, but yet says nothing to condone it.

These realizations show that St. Mary's is progressing in its thought and understanding as well as in its improvements and action. It is finally taking its place in the Twentieth Century.

J. L. D.

## Private Phones To Be Installed In Cruik

Telephones will be in Cruikshank Dormitory by Christmas. Dr. Pisani said that the telephone company has "guaranteed" installation in every room by Christmas, although they may possibly be installed by Thanksgiving.

Telephone jacks will be in each room, although girls do not have to have telephones. Bills will be sent directly to the girl. Residential rates will be effective. The telephone company assumes the cost of installation.

In the meantime, pay telephones are being installed right away in Cruikshank to ease the load on the regular hall telephone.

## THE BELLE TOWER

By Corrine Birdsong

I would like to share with you particular experience which I considered very frustrating. On a Saturday afternoon a few weeks ago, a friend and I were walking through the downtown area in Raleigh. Normally I give little attention to petitions asking for signatures upon meaningless forms; however, I was attracted to a particular group of neatly dressed students — I assume they were students — who were distributing pamphlets and politely asking passers-by for their signatures upon a "Get Out of Cambodia, No More Vietnam" petition.

I was thoroughly dismayed to observe the number of adults and students who found it necessary to make insulting remarks to these petitioners. I overheard one woman's comment as she walked by: "It's just some more Communist propaganda." She seemed very annoyed that these students were simply standing on the corner exercising their peaceful rights. Being an advocate of nonviolence, I found the woman's remark personally insulting. Apparently she is among the many who deplore violence, but don't want non-violent interest in the government either.

Though actually participating in this peaceful petitioning myself, I found it difficult to conceive that today, people too frequently condemn the youth for being serious and for taking interest in our national predicament. Today's youth should be applauded, no matter what stand they take, for simply being serious about our national situation.

However, the mass of Americans seem to favor inertia and blind advocacy of whatever course our leaders care to pursue. Truly this is not patriotism, as many believe. And surely this is the best way to "turn off" the youth of today. For if they cannot be encouraged to exercise their rights peacefully, without fear of being insulted and mocked, how can this nation make the claim of being a democracy in which citizens are supposedly encouraged to voice their opinions openly?

