

An Uncovered Mystery — The SMC Constitution

By Susanne Owens
One of the most well-kept secrets at St. Mary's is the contents of the Student Government Association Constitution. However, as with most secrets, the divulgence of the contents of the Constitution proved to be quite a disappointment to me when I was finally able to locate one. A copy of the Constitution has not been given to each student, faculty member, or other concerned individuals in the past. Present rumor has it that there is one faculty copy which is kept under lock and key and practically requires a warrant for its appearance! The Dean of Students and the President of the College have a copy, and I, as Chairman of the Constitution Committee, have been favored with a copy of this sacred document.
Things are now beginning to take a step toward a brighter

future for our Constitution. Through diligent work by the Constitution Committee, the Constitution which was last revised in 1969, has been revised this year. Near the beginning of first semester, the student body voted to allow the Constitution Committee to bring the Constitution up to date with present policy now in effect. The Constitution Committee has been meeting every Thursday (to do this job) at 4:00, except when dire emergency prevented. In the old Constitution Social Board did not exist. Therefore, a whole new article had to be laid out containing exactly how the Social Board operates. This is just one example of how out-dated the '69 Constitution is. Before Christmas vacation, the committee completed the up-dating of our Constitution. We also plan to publish the new Constitution in the handbook next year in or-

Want Ads

By Kathryn Scott
WANTED: Warm bodies to occupy Mr. Nixon's economics class. Call: Sally Lewis, 834-5103.
FOR SALE: 26 hotlines located in Smedes parlor. Included with this deal come 7,000 friendly alumnae. Sold to the smoothest talker.
WANTED: A French chef who specializes in chocolate chip cookies. Apply: Grogan's Gourmet.
FOR SALE: Lessons in counting to "Fore." Contact: Dr. Pisani.
WANTED: Blue pills for the infirmary.

der that everyone will be familiar with it.
The committee that is doing this work is composed of the Vice President of SGA (chairman), President of SGA, Chairman of Social Board, Dean of Students, and one faculty representative from Legislative
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Sound Off



By Marcia Nahikian
What is a college newspaper? Better yet, what should a college newspaper be?
The size of the school has a lot to do with its publications. Naturally, a large university would need a more varied newspaper than a smaller college such as St. Mary's. However, I feel that the paper, no matter what the size of the school, should not only carry the events that have happened in a period of time on campus, but also have news of the community, and even on the national level. We are a community ourselves, but we are also a part of the "outside world." Sometimes it seems that we lose contact with what is going on around us; yet one of the main functions of the newspaper should be to help bring us back into our society. I am not suggesting that we have another "News and Observer," but such events that would relate to and interest

the students should be contained in the school publication.
However, a newspaper cannot be anything without the reporters and the staff itself. If people would take an interest in the problem of too few reporters we could have a very successful paper. For example, if you know of something going on in Raleigh that you think would interest others you could write a simple article to be put in the paper. And if you feel you could not write it well, all you would have to do would be to give the idea and facts to the editor and she would assign it to one of the staff writers.
The Belles is a good paper and somewhat suits our needs at St. Mary's, but could it do more? I think so, and with a little interest and help we could expand it to a newspaper that would not only interest we, the students, but the community around us as well.

BackPacker Magazine Offered To Hikers

BackPacker Magazine is a quarterly that has been published for the past two years. A regular feature of BackPacker is its equipment buying guide section in each issue. Equipment covered in the first two years has included sleeping bags (goose down, duck down, polyester), packs (aluminum and nylon, week-end), tents (3-season), boots, freeze-dried dinners.

While we do not maintain a "comp" list, we would be pleased to send sample issues of BackPacker to a reviewer if you will send us a letter from an authorized editor listed on your paper's masthead (attach a copy of the masthead to your letter.)
(Editor's Note: Please see me for authorization if interested).

BackPacking Books Catalog Free

A 36-page catalog of hard-to-find books and trail guides of interest to backpackers, hikers, walkers, cross-country skiers and mountaineers can be obtained by sending a 10-cent stamp to Backpacker Books, RFD No. 1, Bellows Falls, Vermont 05101.

Dr. Pisani Has An Idea . . .

By Gaye Isenhour
Dr. Pisani had an idea; so he took it before the Board of Trustees this month who, in turn, formed an educational committee to review the pros and cons. The idea? — the addition of a 10th grade to St. Mary's! But only as day students, first. This sounds great, doesn't it? More students would bring more money to the school. And by including a 10th grade we would then have all the high school grades here at St. Mary's. Then, the girls that are interested in St. Mary's won't have to attend a public school or another private school before they came here for the 11th grade. Also, these 10th graders could enjoy the same advantages as the other high school students here by having college professors for their teachers.

But, with all this, there are some definite drawbacks. For one thing, the Day Student House can't accommodate 15-25 more students; it's just not large enough. And, if we eventually decide to board them, where will we put them? We're living in somewhat crowded conditions as it is. Could we afford to invest in a new dorm as the original renovation plans included?

Also, there is a five-year age difference between a 10th grader and a sophomore in college. Would the 10th graders come to feel "small" compared to the college students? Or, possibly, the college students would come to feel resentful toward the high school part of St. Mary's. What would St. Mary's College be then — a

high school with a junior college tacked on? The collegiates may begin to feel outnumbered and insignificant in light of an expanded high school class.
Another thing to consider in this matter is the faculty. After all, we can't offer the 10th grade until we offer 10th grade course requirements such as Biology, Algebra I and Geometry. Who in the faculty now will teach these courses? Because we can't afford to hire new teachers, we will have to make do with what we have. Yet, to the teachers who are asked to do this, there will be extra time involved in preparing 10th grade courses. But, there are quite a few faculty members who are excited about a 10th grade addition to St. Mary's. They are hopeful that they can rid these girls of their bad academic habits before a public high school confuses them. And, by affording these students three years of academic training here at St. Mary's, they'll be better prepared for college.

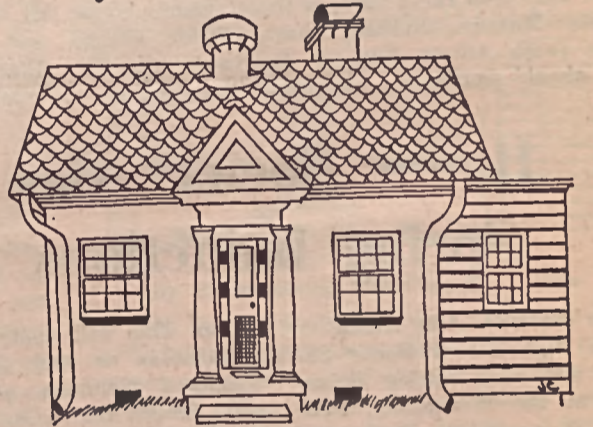
Perhaps the most essential element to consider when deciding on this matter is whether or not St. Mary's can offer the high school students more extracurricular advantages to look forward to. In other words, can St. Mary's expect that there will be any five-year girls looking forward to their "senior" year when they can hold SGA positions and try out for Cold Cuts or be Marshals? Or will the girls simply get impatient and leave St. Mary's for another college? It seems that if we add a 10th grade, whether or not they are day students or eventually boarders,

we must strengthen the high school section of St. Mary's. Maybe if we could divide the SGA positions up and let a 12th grader (who is, after all, a senior in high school) serve as Ledge Body Chairman, or Elections Committee chairman, instead of giving so many responsibilities to the senior SGA officers who have enough to do already.

But, most important of all — will St. Mary's lose its uniqueness with this step? After all, we're about the only institution that calls itself a college and has the last two years of high school included with all students under the same faculty. Are we outmoded in this respect? Should we endeavor to change our whole make-up and become St. Mary's Junior College and St. Mary's Academy like Salem? Right now, if we did that we'd have to board only college students with all high school girls as day students because we can't afford to build more dorms.

These questions and many others are being considered by the Educational Committee up of a group of competent and concerned persons. This group includes Dr. Pisani, Dr. Rollie Tillman (chairman of the Board of Trustees) and Margaret McAlister along with Mrs. Sherwood H. Smith, Jr. (chairman of the Committee), Thad Eure, Jr., Dr. Robert Miller, Dr. Elgiva Watson, and Dr. Dolores Lado. Please give your support to these people and if you have any thoughts on Dr. Pisani's idea, feel free to talk with them; their job is to represent you and to do what is best for St. Mary's College.

Day Student Scoop



(An Average Day in the Day Student House)
By Corneille Little

Most students aren't too lively in the morning because we are still drinking our early morning beverages (ranging from coffee to cokes). This is about the quietest time of day in our happy little house, except during examinations, which are too far off to discuss now. Some girls are sitting around with wide, astonished eyes glued to "Captain Kangaroo," while others are still recuperating from the night before, and trying to catch up on some last minute homework.
The house is rather hectic
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