



VOLUME XLIII, NUMBER 7

900 HILLSBOROUGH STREET
ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, RALEIGH, N.C.

of
St. Mary's
College

MAY, 1982

A REVEALING WORK AT OUR CAMPUS

by Foo Vaeth and
Mary Glenn Barwick

Perhaps you have reflected on the processes involved in operating St. Mary's College campus. If you haven't, you should. What happens at this institution, regardless of its size, pertains to all our lives. As Robert J. Miller, Dean of the College, pointed out, these are not things that you need to know, "these are things that you should be interested in."

Basically, two areas lack student involvement. The administrative processes involved on the academic level and the monetary decisions on the business level.

The faculty meetings occurring the first Friday of each month are generally not open to students. The Belles staff was granted the opportunity to read the minutes from those meetings.

After being called to order, President Rice presents "several items of interest and significance." If necessary, there will be a report from the Board of Trustees. The faculty is also informed of important upcoming events, staff changes and committee reports. The meeting is then turned over to Dr. Miller, who presides. The academic matters are presented by

academic council, which does call for student representation. Yet the council can only recommend to the faculty and ultimately the President. All issues must be approved by them before they can take effect the following academic year.

Usually, this presents no problem since the majority of academic council members are faculty representatives for their various departments.

Recent issues also included the developments of the newly formed computer committee and the upcoming reaccreditation for the high school.

According to Dr. Miller, applications are increasing by 25 percent, although the returning rate of juniors is down. According to the minutes, "The college needs to improve its retention rate of graduating high school students."

Students also lack information concerning the college budget. While this information is valuable, it is not helpful unless we understand how the overall operation works. The Belles was granted an interview with the business manager and asked the questions many students want answers to.

The overall tuition was raised \$625 for boarding

students, making the cost to attend St. Mary's next year \$6250. The day student increase amounts to \$375. This is an 11 percent increase over the 1981-82 tuition. Mr. Conrad pointed out that in comparison to other prestigious women's colleges, St. Mary's has managed to keep its tuition at a lower level. For example, students at Hollins pay \$8,050 and Sweet Briar tuition stands at \$7,950. The cost of attending those institutions would naturally be higher. They offer the complete four year B.A. degree program. The range of study is a great deal broader, and since the schools are larger than St. Mary's, more funds would be required for its operation.

We also discovered that the school has no immediate plans to undertake any dorm remodeling with the exception of minor changes in 1983. Conrad explained that minimal remodeling occurs every year in the form of maintenance. This money comes out of the operating budget -- a combination of student tuition and gifts.

The campus has a utilities bill that runs close to \$300,000 a year. An example of the electricity cost during the month of January is \$25,000. The campus electricity usage is regulated by a computer that controls the demand load so it will not soar to the peak level. The school pays the

highest point of electricity usage, but the computer controls that amount.

Of further interest, the landscaping project in front of the library has certainly improved the looks of that area. The \$30,000 venture is the first attempt towards re-landscaping the entire campus in the next five years. It is an example of what the entire campus will look like if the \$500,000 to complete the job is raised. Conrad denied knowledge of it disrupting the natural ecosystem of the area, while one can guess that paved sanitary-looking walkways and computer planned flowers must be disruptive to the environment (top soil, etc.) and not necessarily more appealing. St. Mary's hopes to demonstrate to the entire Cameron Village area that we intend for our campus to be an asset to the area. Overall, the goal is "to maintain and improve so it (the campus) doesn't depreciate." Is this a necessary goal? Trees are prettier than paved walkways.

The food service is always a questioning student's concern. St. Mary's is under contract with ARA Food Services. Their company supplies the food and labor, and St. Mary's provides the facilities and equipment.

Food operations cost you roughly 16 percent of your tuition, or about \$1000 a year. Nevertheless, this figure is

easily misinterpreted. We have three meals supplied per day, 260 days per year, so taking the money ourselves would prove disastrous. It also depends on the individual because many of us don't eat three meals a day. Conrad explained that in order to have a food service plan, all students must participate. The school controls the quality of that service. If ARA fails to provide something and it proves to be a legitimate request, it is insisted upon.

Naturally, (supplying) the various departments with funds to operate their department is an allocated part of the budget. Each department head submits their documented request forms. The business department sees how much income is necessary to meet those requests. If the cost is too high, the budget request is cut. This year only three departments received less than their anticipated budgets.

Next year's budget is in excess of 3.5 million dollars. More money will be available for scholarships and college debts.

Questioning processes and changes is a part of acting as a concerned student. Your campus is your concern, if you have any more questions, suggestions or opinions, drop them in the mail box addressed to the editor. Let's make this school our business.

ST. MARY'S STUDENTS HONORED

by Karen Lado

While a brass quartet played and the chorale and ensemble sang, the St. Mary's faculty pranged into Pittman Auditorium April 23, 1982. The third annual Honors Convocation had begun. Every year, St. Mary's recognizes at this special assembly the high school and college students who have shown exceptional interest and academic excellence in a specific area. After a short prayer and some introductory remarks by Dr. Miller, the chairmen of the different departments rose to present their awards.

Kathryn Goode won the first award, in Art at the college level. In Drama, Kate McCrary and Ashley

Dimmette received recognition for their outstanding work. The music awards went to Frances Ellerbe and Elizabeth Williams.

Dr. Rollins presented each of the winners in English: Lisa Maloney, Virginia Hodges, and Jean Schaefer a copy of Riverside Shakespeare. Virginia and Jean went on to win recognition with Florence Norris and Mary Jacque Holroyd for their achievement in Religion.

The Language, Math and Science departments gave awards only to high school students. Shirley Fawcette was honored for her achievement in Math, Karen Lado in French, and Ellen Reynolds in Science, the first

of her three awards. Ellen also won the high school physical education award, the college one going to Gina Ellis.

St. Mary's presented several other non-departmental awards. Lynn Jones won the CRC Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award. Karen Lado received the Mount Holyoke Alumnae Award, and Ellen Reynolds who is first in her class, was honored by the Phi Beta

Kappa Association.

Becky Rogers won the Robert Ice Green Connelly Award, which carries a \$1000 scholarship for her work in a foreign language. Foo Vaeth, recipient of the Jane Augustine Rebon Belles Award, will have her name engraved on a silver platter. And once again, Miss Birch received the Outstanding Teacher Award, as chosen by the students.

Congratulations to all



May Court 1982



St. Mary's 1982 Spring Queen,
Sarah Cunninham Rice

CAREERS.. Options for women in the 80's

by Rebecca Rogers

All of us think about having a career at some point in our lives. As the eighties progress, it will become more and more necessary for women to hold some sort of job. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates, by 1990, over

53 million women will occupy places in the work force. The following is a list of nine job categories, including the top three specific jobs which will offer the most openings in the eighties. To compare the various categories, a ranking
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