

EDITORIALS

Don't Forget The Teachers!

By Ashland Mackie

The new year has arrived and it is time to look at life with a fresh view in 1988. One way to start doing this is by showing appreciation for the people who interact with us everyday, such as the teachers at Saint Mary's. Consider the achievements of last semester: final exams are over and grades are out; there was a sense of relief as you got into your car and journeyed back to the nurturing nest of home. You probably forgot about the responsibilities of school-work until the twelfth of January when it was back to the alarm clock and tests galore. However, whether you were tired, well-rested, enthusiastic, or despondent about second semester's return, there is one thing we students may have forgotten: no matter how hard we labored to achieve good grades last semester, the teachers worked more.

The student's job ends when she finishes writing her pledge on that last exam, but the teacher has hours and hours of more work to put in before the beginning of second semester. After the students finish their final exams they can relax by the t.v., see friends, or say "Mom, I'm exhausted!" and sleep all day. However, teachers must meet the deadline for turning in grades within a few days of final exams in order for grades to arrive in home mailboxes on time (that is, after presents have been bought). They then have a few days to do the household jobs which have piled up in the past weeks, go to family get-togethers, do the shopping, cook, and are left with

few moments to relax.

When Christmas is over, visions of students demanding a syllabus on the first day of class begin to cloud the teachers' heads and preparation for second semester begins. Every class needs to be planned out and test dates set; this is the teacher's job. Appreciating the amount of time which teachers put into their job of educating the students is just as important as the support which they provide for the students who work diligently to be successful.

As the semester begins, so also begins the daily commitment to hard work by both the students and the faculty. Just as students attend class every day, do not be disappointed when the teacher shows up every day, rain, shine, or snow, to teach class. Wouldn't this teacher rather be at home too? We are fortunate at Saint Mary's to have teachers who are dedicated to being available to the students whenever they are needed. The professors could go home or to the lounge in-between classes and on days when they have no class; instead almost every teacher at Saint Mary's is in his or her office every day at the students' disposal.

The new year invites not only self-congratulations, but congratulations to the faculty at Saint Mary's for encouraging students to strive for the best education possible. The new year holds many possibilities, and the teachers at this school seem more than willing to do their best to assist students in making 1988 an academically significant year.

Student Opinion

'Dream' Not Alive At Saint Mary's

By Caroline F. Stephenson

January 18, 1988 was a federal holiday observing the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Around the country the holiday was celebrated with parades, memorial services, TV shows, church dinners and dances, rallies, and candlelight processions. At Saint Mary's, however, there was nothing.

No mention was made of King's birthday in assembly that morning, the perfect opportunity to remember King and tie his work in with Betty Bumpers' cause for space. It was not until the January 27 all-campus chapel service that King's birthday was even mentioned to the school. For the past two years, chapel services have been the only observance of the holiday at Saint Mary's.

Chapel services alone, however, do not

adequately recognize King's legacy. That is why Saint Mary's as a whole should do something to observe the holiday, especially because, as a liberal arts institution, the school should be committed to all issues concerning human rights. Several faculty members voiced their feelings about the school's failure. "It is regrettable that we did not celebrate the holiday, because as a school we have a moral responsibility to recognize it," said Dr. Esthimer.

Public schools and federal institutions recognized the holiday by giving people the day off. Saint Mary's could set an example by celebrating the holiday constructively, devoting assembly and class time to learning about King and what he did to change the course of history. Perhaps this should be looked into for January 18, 1989.

College Campus Advisory

When that smooth-talking, polished professional salesperson comes to your dorm and talks to you about "planning for your future," the Better Business Bureau advises that you use caution and common sense. Some companies solicit business only on college campuses, and some of them sell high priced merchandise and use high pressure sales techniques as well.

China, cookware, and other products may be sold to students by asking them to sign a "student application" for open end credit. This application, however, is also a purchase agreement for hundreds of dollars worth of goods, to be paid in monthly installments over time. Marketers often represent that signing the agreement is a chance to establish credit by maintaining regular monthly payments. Some students may not realize that by signing the "application" they are committing themselves to purchasing goods and paying a monthly fee that may seem small at the time, but may be difficult to continue over the long run.

Although it is legal in most states for persons 18 or over to sign contracts, parents have expressed dismay that students who are dependents, without a job or income, and without a co-signature, can sign such contracts. All contracts over the amount of \$25 signed away from the seller's place of business can be cancelled according to federal law, within three business days. This provision must be part of a contract, but often is not verbally explained by the salesperson, who is intent on making sales.

You may also wish to consider whether you should buy products based usually only on a picture of the merchandise. Some companies offer deferred delivery plans, where you continue to make payments and get your goods in a few years. However,

what if the company is not around at that time or you are not satisfied when you do finally receive your merchandise? Another question to ask yourself is what will happen if you miss payments or change your mind. After the initial three day "cooling off" period, most companies will expect you to live up to your promise to pay. Delinquent accounts are generally reported to credit reporting agencies, making it difficult to establish further credit when you graduate and are ready to take on financial commitments.

Some student purchasers are pleased with their merchandise and can handle the financial commitment; however, the next time someone knocks on your door trying to sell you something, be cautious and ask yourself the above questions.

Many complaints have been received concerning travel and vacation packages offered to students. The Better Business Bureau suggests that you do the following before paying for your spring break vacation:

- Pay attention to small print or asterisks in print advertisements to make sure the meaning of any advertisement statement is not altered.

- Make sure the vacation tour's prices are available at the time you wish to travel. Find out if there are any cancellation penalties and what the refund policy is, in case you'll need to cancel your trip.

- Find out if there are extra charges in addition to the advertised price.

- Make sure you know exactly what features are included in the advertised price. Finally, make every effort to determine if the tour operator is reliable. Check with friends or relatives for recommendations and check with your Better Business Bureau for a reliability report.



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February Events

Feb. 5-7	Father-Daughter Weekend
Feb. 10	Sea Saints Performance 7-8 p.m.
Feb. 11	Sea Saints Performance 7-8 p.m.
Feb. 13	Rehearsal for Concert 2-5 p.m.
Feb. 14	VALENTINE'S DAY Rehearsal for Concert 1-5 p.m.
Feb. 15	Fair Hand Piano Recital 7-10 p.m.
Feb. 28	Chapel Series Concert 4 p.m.
Feb. 29	Forum Assembly: The Steel Bandits