

Editorial

It Doesn't Make Sense

By Jennifer Mason

The new policy on High School absences is well known to everyone on campus. If you skip a class, you do menial tasks around school such as pick up cigarette butts or work in the library. But that is not the only punishment — your parents also receive a letter at home. It is this part of the punishment I disagree with.

At Saint Mary's, we are taught how to be independent and to take responsibility for our mistakes in life. It is a growing experience unmatched at any other time in our lives. But how can we learn to take responsibility for our actions as adults if we are treated as children? The faculty needs to step back and take a second look before

they tell us to grow up and start acting as adults. We are expected to behave like college students, think like college students, and deal with a college student's work load, but if we skip a class, we aren't treated as college students, we're treated as Kindergarteners! When informed that a high school student has skipped class, the administration runs quickly back to their offices, grabs the nearest pen, and writes "mommy" a letter about how her child has skipped class, and then turns right around and asks, "Why don't you start acting like the adult we expect you to be?" There is only one answer to this — and this is "We can only act like adults if we are treated like them."



It's time to be writing those papers again.

Update From The Chaplain

Your response to our Volunteer Program has been great! I am thankful so many of you were able to follow up on your interest in volunteering at Hillhaven, Gov. Morehead, and/or Frankie Lemmon School. To have Saint Mary's out in Raleigh as part of a helping community gives our school a strong reputation as a good neighbor. I am very proud to be able to tell alumnae, visitors and churchpeople about your willingness to be good neighbors. It's a great answer to people who think today's students only care about themselves! As the good guy from Bartles and James says: "Thank you for your support."

Returning students may notice that we are having more All-Campus Chapels than we did last year. This year, I'm trying to strike a better balance between services which are smaller and more focused, and services for the whole campus. All-Campus Chapels are a great time for clubs and organizations to relate their activities to the

greater purposes of the school. I hope you got to see that in the chapels sponsored by the Vestry and by WATS. Clubs and organizations can also sponsor services at other times, but if you want everyone to know about your activities, the All-Campus Chapel is the answer. Watch for the Granddaughters Club in October!

All-Campus Chapels are important because they bring the Day Students into a traditional part of Saint Mary's life. Acolytes and readers from the Day Students can also participate most easily at these services. Since the Chapel is a great bonding force, it is crucial for everyone to be included.

By now, I hope all of you are feeling comfortable with our chapel services. This is especially true for those of you who are not Episcopalians. You're doing a good job of bearing up with all our little quirks! I have a great respect for your spirituality, for the ways you are seeking to become women

of faith. I know firsthand what it means to struggle with issues, with faith, with finding a meaning for life. I hope you will use the chapel service time, that half hour each week, as a part of your search. If the focus of the particular service isn't relevant for you at the moment, I can certainly understand that. Perhaps you can use the time to read the Psalms, or just sit quietly and think.

It's important to remember that the service is meaningful for some students there. I have spent time planning each service, and many of your classmates are participating. Let's respect each other's choices for worship, and let those who seek worship in the chapel have the opportunity to do so. This means an atmosphere of calm and quiet. I've always liked the story of Elijah discovering that God was not in the wind, or the earthquake, or the fire, but instead was in a still small voice. I need to be able to listen.

Politics At Saint Mary's

The poll conducted by Dr. Carolyn Happer's classes have yielded some interesting results. Most significant, perhaps, is the fact that 48% of students who report that they are eligible to vote had not registered at the time of the poll. Unless they have registered since then, their opinions will not carry any weight when they matter the most.

Students and faculty show significant disagreement in their political opinions. Of the students, 50% say their party preference is Republican, 24% Democrat and 25% undecided or other. For three out of four students, their party preference is the same as their parents. Faculty report a preference for the Democratic Party by nearly a two-to-one margin. Staff members report a slight Republican edge in party preference.

When it comes to the candidates, 74% of the students are for or leaning towards

Bush and Quayle, with the other 24% for Dukakis and Bentson. Staff members show a preference for the Bush/Quayle ticket by 63% to 38%. On the other hand, faculty are for or leaning towards the Democratic ticket by 64% to 36%.

Students and faculty also show different degrees of interest in politics. Only 19% of students say they are very interested in politics, with 77% moderately interested. For faculty, 56% report being very interested, with 38% moderately interested. Yet, the issues of greatest concern were the same for all groups, with economy ranking first and national debt/deficit second for students, faculty and staff. Of least concern for all groups was civil rights.

Students, faculty and staff will have another chance to make their opinions known in a mock election scheduled for October 31.

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