



The Belles

of Saint Mary's College



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Curriculum Changes Considered

By Carlyle Herbert

A new proposal regarding changes in the curriculum for college students here at Saint Mary's has been drawn up. This would allow students to follow one of four tracks of study for the Associate of Arts degree. These tracks were designed to allow the students more flexibility and an opportunity to begin studying in their proposed areas of interest.

The Humanities track was designed for careers based on majors in English, journalism, history, pre-law, business, foreign language and communications. A few of the required courses would be six hours of Western Civilizations or British History, English Composition, World or British Literature and Art History or other suggested Fine Arts Courses. In addition to these and other requirements, the students are allowed seven to fifteen hours of electives.

The American Studies Track is

suggested for students interested in pursuing majors in political science, pre-law, business, education, history and the social sciences. A few of the courses that should be taken are six hours of American Literature, American History, Religion or Philosophy, and Math or Science. As well as these and other courses, there are ten to twelve hours of Electives.

The next track centers on Math, Science and Health Careers. In order to complete this track a student must complete six hours of Math, English Composition, History and Religion. In addition the student must have eight hours of Chemistry, six to eight hours of additional Math and Science, and twelve to sixteen hours of electives.

The last track is for students planning to major in art history, architecture, interior design, fashion, music, art, education, drama, music education and music. The Fine Arts Track requires six hours of En-

glish, Math or Science, History, foreign language and a social science. In addition to these and other courses students chose an area of concentration in one of three areas. First, the Visual Arts Concentration requires nine hours of studio art and seven to nine hours of Electives along with other courses. The Drama Concentration requires two specific Drama courses, one in art, seven to nine hours of Drama Electives, and seven to nine hours of other Electives. The third concentration centers on Music. Specific art and music courses, an applied music each semester, three to seven hours of Electives, and other courses are required to concentrate in this area.

At this time none of this information is definite. It also does not contain all of the required courses or specific information about them. Any questions should be directed to the Dean of the College, Dr. Watson.

Did You Know?

By Jenny Caine

Did you know that some girls at SMC have taken time out of their schedules to volunteer at Governor Morehead School and at Hillhaven?

Hillhaven is a convalescent center on Wade Avenue. The volunteers go every Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. They talk to the elderly and share ideas with them. In turn, the elderly are always eager to share their stories with the volunteers. They are very delighted to see the students come and look forward to seeing them again.

Governor Morehead is a school for the blind. The staff emphasizes the importance of these young adults to get out and enjoy the world. One way to accomplish this is through the volunteers. One of the volunteers, Cathy Thompson, says, "We give them someone to talk to around their own age." Meg Tuttle, another volunteer, says, "Some of them even feel confident about sharing their stories about becoming handicapped, and they seem to feel better after talking about it." The Governor Morehead students are introduced to others and therefore learn how to adjust to them. The volunteers, also, enjoy spending time with the handicapped students. Angie Polk observes, "It's fun helping them out; it's like having a little sister. I think we need to stay longer than just one hour a week."

Throughout SMC there are a number of helpful organizations. These two volunteer programs are not only educational for the SMC students, but also for the blind students and the elderly.

Sarah Dawsey Lends A Hand To Sea Turtles

By Michele Baba

Unlike many teenagers who spend their summers sunbathing and watching soap operas, Sarah Dawsey, a college freshman from McClellanville, South Carolina, devotes her time to the preservation of the threatened loggerhead sea turtles.

Sarah became involved with the Wildlife Refuge Program three summers ago. Working on Cape Romain Island, Sarah and her colleagues set up hatcheries for the thousands of eggs which are laid each year. Along with monitoring the hatcheries, the work also consists of temperature recordings. Since sand temperature determines the sex of the turtles, constant monitoring gives the workers a rough estimate of the percentage of male and female turtles.

In order to increase the chance of survival for this species, the eggs must be protected from ocean water, raccoons, sand

crabs, and human poachers. How necessary are the efforts of Sarah and people like her? Without their help each year, it is estimated that only one percent of the eggs would survive. Thus conservational measures are very vital. Even with the help of Sarah and others, many of the hatchlings released are killed by seagulls and fish. But Sarah remains undaunted. She hopes to become a wildlife biologist who specializes in endangered species. Without hesitation, Sarah says, "It's the only job I've found that I feel I'm really making a difference." Such concern for her work keeps Sarah going even though the sea turtle population is still declining.

The pressing question is, "Will the efforts of today have a positive effect on the future?" While that question is presently unanswerable, initiative and dedication like Sarah's will hopefully give these threatened turtles a better chance for survival.



Sarah Dawsey — A helping hand for sea turtles.

Spotlight on Mrs. Bunch

By Sherl Roberson

Mrs. Bunch is a valuable part of almost every girl's life at St. Mary's. She is most valuable to high school seniors and college sophomores in selecting their future plans. She has many books, catalogs and computer programs to help girls plan their later education and later careers.

Mrs. Bunch has been at Saint Mary's for 17 years. She attended Meredith College for her undergraduate studies, University of North Carolina for her graduate studies, and North Carolina State University for her post-graduate studies. Her daughter attended Saint Mary's.

Mrs. Bunch advises all students planning to further their education to have at least one application sent by December 1. Applying to "too many" colleges before shopping around can be a "confusing and draining"

experience. Students should make their own decisions based on the information they have gathered rather than relying on their parents because the "student ultimately has to live with the decision and therefore it should be their decision." She advises all faculty advisors, counselors and parents to avoid making the final decision for the student. She adds that it is not necessary for students to decide their careers between the ages of 17 and 21. Students should "keep their options open" because there are many jobs out there.

The Guidance office has many sources to help each girl make her decision. **The Dictionary of Occupational Titles** is a book published by the U.S. Department of Labor which classifies occupations. This book has many classifications that do not have titles, which allows the "expansion

and creation" of new occupations. For this reason, students are advised to keep their options open.

The Occupational Outlook Handbook is also helpful in selecting a career. This book tells about the nature of each career, statistics of employment, earnings, related occupations, and a prediction about the career's future.

Each girl should choose an area that she enjoys. A job should be selected based on her interest, not salary alone. It is possible a salary will change in the future and she will be stuck in an unhappy job. This is one of the biggest decisions a girl will make in her life. This decision should be made carefully and not hastily. Mrs. Bunch says that she hopes "every girl will be able to return a blessing to the world for the blessings that she has received."



Mrs. Barbara Bunch is ready to help students make college plans.