

Editorial

Guinea Pigs For Free

Every high school student faces that frightening Saturday of the SAT. The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is a 3-hour test that most colleges use in their admissions process. The test is divided into six 30-minute sections: 2 verbal sections, 2 math sections, 1 Test of Standard Written English, and 1 experimental section. The math and verbal sections determine one's score. The Test of Standard Written English is used by colleges to place students in English classes. The experimental section of the SAT is just that — experimental — and does not count toward's one's score.

The experimental section of the SAT is used to test future questions. A student spends 30 minutes working on a section that does not help him at all, but only benefits the College Board.

A student pays \$12.50 to take the SAT. Why should the College Board get free guinea pigs? When people are used in scientific experiments, they are paid for their time. Why isn't the student paid to be part of their experiment? At a minimum, the students should have the option of deciding whether to attempt the experimental questions.

As it is, the SAT is so long that it creates frustration and anxiety without having an extra section. In addition, the questions in the experimental section, are usually extremely difficult, which only frustrates the student further.

The College Board should reanalyze the experimental section. Because of the emphasis colleges place on SAT scores, a student is under considerable pressure to score well on the SAT. Is it fair to create additional anxiety by requiring students to participate in an experimental program?

Welcome Back Mr. Tate

By Michelle Baba

Many returning students have probably missed the presence of Mr. Tate, an English teacher who has been part of Saint Mary's since 1957. Throughout his career, Mr. Tate has not only been active in the classroom but also in other areas of campus life. For example, Mr. Tate has worked to improve our library, and he has helped students discover the sights and sounds of Europe. As Santa Claus at the annual Circle/Beacon Christmas Party, Mr. Tate has created something of a tradition. His jolly entrance and Santa dance were highlights of last year's festivities.

Due to illness at the end of last semester, Mr. Tate had to take time off. In January, however, he will be returning to the classroom. Because of his condition, Mr. Tate was unable to lead the Shakespeare In England summer course, which he has taught annually since 1979. This six-week jaunt through Amsterdam, Paris, Stafford-Upon-Avon, and London combines sightseeing with the study of Shakespearean plays. The trip is quite popular, but if thee's and thou's are not your style, there is a Spring Break trip to London which is pure sightseeing. If you are interested in either trip, keep your ears open for more details.

New students should be encouraged to get to know Mr. Tate. He's a friendly, funny, interesting man who has been a crucial part of Saint Mary's life for many years. Old students should take the time in January to say, "Welcome back!" as well. Let's show this special member of our community how much we have missed him.

Letter to the Editors:

Dear Editor:

I want to congratulate **The Belles** on its investigative reporting in reviewing the class attendance matter. You have done us a service by showing that we do not sometimes make clear that we know exactly what the rules are, and we appear to be inconsistent in our responses. We will try to do a better job of being clear about the rules and consequences. I do have one concern about the response to the response which was printed in the November issue of **The Belles**.

In the final paragraph of her response, Jennifer Mason links the action of reporting class absences to the honor system. That linkage is not correct. The issue of class attendance does not involve lying, stealing or cheating. Our honor system relates to those three aspects of student life.

The question of the reporting of high school students' absences to parents involves two other issues. First, the faculty has determined that class attendance is an important factor in students' success. Secondly, a number of parents of high school students have indicated to me and to others at Saint Mary's that they desire to receive information about their daughters' class attendance. In reporting this fact to the parents, we are doing more than meeting our obligations in informing parents about a relevant academic matter.

This action has nothing whatsoever to do with the honor code. It is in no way a questioning of the honor of our high school students to report their class absences to their parents as the parents have requested.

We have a commission to study the honor system at Saint Mary's, and it is clear that one thing we need to do is to differentiate between those matters that are honor system matters and those that are not. This discussion should help focus our study.

Sincerely yours,
Clauston Jenkins
President

Dear Editor:

I am writing to add to the ideas you presented in the editorial "We're Not Out of the Woods Yet!" in the November 1988 issue of **The Belles**. Your editorial states that "only 15% of the women in this country are in professional and technical jobs." You add that "it's hard for us to think that in the 80's there is such a thing as sexual discrimination anymore."

I agree with these points but I would like to add the following thoughts for you and your colleagues to consider:

1. Women at a very early time in their educational development close many possible doors to prestigious colleges and satisfying professions by choosing to avoid such fundamental courses as algebra/trigonometry, chemistry, and physics in high school. These courses are vital to many careers including business, law, engineering, science, medicine, etc.

2. We need to be activists in encouraging our political and corporate leaders to formulate national and corporate policies that are flexible, equitable, and supportive of utilizing the fine minds of our entire population as they build careers, are loving and responsible parents, and caring children of aging parents. We need creative sharing of jobs, excellent child and adult care, familial leave policies, easily transferrable retirement plans, etc. These will contribute not only to better opportunities for women but also to more sensible work benefits for all family members. Parents and children will be less stressed and in the long run our country will benefit.

3. Lastly, we as women need to consider having relationships with caring men who choose to be supportive of women who are loving, articulate, intelligent, and assertive. As the role of women changes so must the role of men widen to include the responsibilities that in the past have been considered female such as child rearing, family

care, household maintenance. As we women develop our professional lives and take more responsibility in financial matters, we should likewise encourage men to be more open in their expression of emotion and less pressured in the financial support of the family. We all must share the joys and responsibilities for caring for each other, our children, our parents, our neighbors, our country, and our world.

I appreciate this opportunity to share these ideas with you.

Alice Z. Greiner

Dear Juniors and Seniors:

Right now you are having the time of your lives. You might not be looking ahead to the day when you will be a Freshman. That would be a big mistake. Being a freshman is much different from being a junior or senior. I know that going away to St. Mary's is much like going off to college, but it is not the same. St. Mary's is a very small and personal and structured place. I am attending the University of South Carolina and it is nothing like St. Mary's. Here you are known by your social security number. It is rare to see someone that you know walking through campus. Some teachers could not care less whether you pass or fail. There will not always be someone around to cushion your falls.

What I am trying to say is: Get prepared! Plan ahead! I am attending summer school. It has helped me learn my way around campus before I have a tight schedule to keep. It also has allowed me to get some subjects out of the way. Keep the habit of attending class every day. Many of your teachers in college will not care if you come to class or not, but getting behind in college can be crucial. Your freshman year will be the basis of your college career. If you have big dreams in life, do not plan to party your entire freshman year. It will be tempting, but there is a whole week set aside for you to party, it begins the day that the dorms open. Classes will not be starting for four more days. There will be parties given by the school to introduce you to college life. This is the week to rush a sorority if you are interested. This is also the time to hit all the night spots so you will know where to go on the weekends. Basically this week is for you to get out all of your initial excitement about being away at college before

you really have to buckle down to studying. So there will be a time for partying, but not every night.

When you go to the college of your choice as a freshman you will be scared and excited. It is a new experience that you have waited for a long time. You will feel like the youngest person around, but you will feel old for being there. You will be meeting a whole new group of people and making many new friends. But it is important to remember how hard you worked to get there and how important it is to succeed. Remember the sacrifices your parents are making to send you to college. The grades you make in college may determine the rank of job you get when college is over. College is a time to grow up and act responsibly, so start off right your freshman year!

Finally, be excited about being a college freshman! It can be a great experience. But, remember, if you do not start preparing yourself now, it could be the scariest experience of your life! You don't want to find yourself repeating your freshman year. You will be in school long enough without prolonging it by failure. Keep in mind that in four years you will be out in the real world trying to survive on your own. If you do that, I don't think you will have any trouble keeping your act together during your freshman year.

Sincerely,
Beth Cox

Beth Cox is a Saint Mary's high school graduate from the class of 1988.

Dear Editor:

I am a junior at SMC in my first year here. The honor code is not one of the reasons that I chose to attend Saint Mary's, but it certainly impressed me when I was considering prospective schools. I was even more impressed with President Jenkins' speech to the new students in the chapel on Sunday, August 21, my second day here. I understood him to say that the honor code is not a system of rules that is forced upon the students, but rather a matter of the voluntary choice by individuals to uphold a certain standard of behavior. He said that the honor code would not work without our, the student's cooperation. I

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Keep Us Posted

Do you want your organization's activities represented in **The Belles**? If so, keep us posted about what's happening in your group, and we'll be glad to see that the campus learns about your organization too. Appoint someone in your group to regularly submit articles about what you are doing, or give us details and we'll write the article for you.

DON'T BE LEFT OUT OF THE BELLES!!

Is Something Bugging You?

The Belles requests and appreciates any and all comments on school and political issues in the form of a letter to the editor from students not on the Belles staff. Get involved! Don't miss a chance to voice your side! Please send all letters care of Dr. Schroeder, St. Mary's mail. We're waiting to here from YOU!

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