

From Whom the Belles Toll

Generation X: Overcoming the Stereotype

Our generation lives in the shadow of one of the worst stereotypes today. It transcends race, creed, and class, characterizing everyone born between the late Sixties through 1980 as apathetic and banal, content to do "whatever", taking no interest in society.

Unfortunately, stereotypes are easily bestowed, and very slowly forgotten. Therefore, it is up to us to take control of our lives in order that we may make a positive contribution to our community.

The mass media portrays Generation X as something unsavory. They tell us that we are lazy, greedy, and lacking ambition. Instead, the typical person of our generation is overwhelmed by the state of the world. Generation X is the first generation in the history of

the United States to believe that it will be worse off than the previous generation. It is no wonder since foreign and domestic affairs are shaky at best, and civilization is slowly ripping apart the environment, the very sustenance of life. This collective overwhelming feeling has been misinterpreted as apathy.

Generation X must overcome its feeling that the world is out of their control. The way to accomplish this is to set goals. Goal-setting is a two step process. There are short term and long term goals.

Long term goals are things such as graduation, family planning, and career choices. They are things that one desires in the distant future.

Short term goals are any variety of things that one wishes to accomplish in the near future. Short

term goals include reading a book, making a good grade, or saving up for a vacation. Some short term goals are small steps on the way to achieving a long term goal. Short term goals are a way of feeling accomplishment on a regular basis.

To be successful in such an overwhelming era, it is imperative to analyze the situation at hand, and proceed by setting short and long term goals for yourself. This way you can navigate your way through the rough and uncertain waters of today's world. Goals also help motivate, as well as serving as markers of progress and accomplishment.

To cancel all of the negative expectations others have about our generation, it is necessary that we set goals for ourselves so that we may accomplish what is important to us.

Honor At Saint Mary's

"Honor is the most sublime word in the English language."

Gen. Robert Edward Lee

The Saint Mary's Honor Code. The mere words evoke a strong sense of pride in the "old girls" who have gone through the honor system here at Saint Mary's. With the recent "scandals" (men in the living quarters without permission), some might wonder, "Why have an honor code at all?"

However, when someone expresses such an idea, I wonder, "Why are you at Saint Mary's?" If one cannot live up to her responsibilities by following the honor code for her own sake, then perhaps she should follow the code if for no other reason than to abide by the rules of Saint Mary's. Surely when choosing colleges, one is aware of the high standards of conduct expected here, and if one did not wish to live by these rules they should have gone to a lesser school.

In 1842 Rev. Aldert Smedes founded Saint Mary's in honor and dedication to the education of young women. Personally, I feel obligated to live up to Aldert's lofty vision. To paraphrase Dean Jones thoughts on the honor system, "...honor doesn't just happen...it is built. The honor you learn here at Saint Mary's is something you will carry on for the rest of our life..."

At the defeat of Waterloo Napoleon cried out, "All is lost, save honor". We feel that Saint Mary's girls can earn something from this. In the face of the most umiliating, bloody defeat Napoleon still believed that military massacre was secondary to the loss of dignity, or it is by honor that one's merit is measured.

So let's try to make the honor code a way of life rather than just a regulation in the Saint Mary's Handbook.

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Merits of a Small Women's College

Attending a small women's college is probably the best decision you have ever made. Being exclusively with women peers is a singular experience; one that you are unlikely to encounter again in a community especially geared to the needs of ambitious young women. It will provide you with opportunities you never imagined.

The most important benefit of a small women's college is the attention you will receive in class. Not only are the classes small, but the atmosphere is open and casual. You have your professors' full attention.

"You will find yourself succeeding in many of your endeavors"

The collage has a small, community oriented setting. Your classmates will easily become your closest friends. Professors will invite you to their homes in order to get to know you better.

With an improved academic setting and more new friends that you can count, you will find yourself succeeding in many of your endeavors. A small women's college is indicative to self-motivation and real accomplishment.

Confidence in yourself builds and inspires others to have confidence in you. Thus the college has many leadership opportunities available to its students. They provide the means for self-growth and new challenges. Student leadership enhances the quality of life and learning.

A small women's college is an alternative choice in today's world. However, it is the most practical one. With so much going for you, it is easy to succeed.