

The Belles

OF SAINT MARY'S

Published every two weeks by the student body of
Saint Mary's School

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RULES TO MAKE FREEDOM

Freedom is something that men of all times have fought for and cherished. Because of this passionate longing for freedom we live today in the greatest democracy the world has ever known. This is a free country, one of the few if not the only one left. Yet even here in this country based on principles of freedom and equality we have laws, laws which regulate and protect the government and the individual.

In speaking of a free country we never consider one without rules, for we realize that it is only through rules that we have freedom. Can you imagine a society in which there is no form of law? One in which everybody does exactly as he pleases regardless of the feeling and rights of others? Think of the terror, fear, and danger that would shadow such a country!

Such is the case at Saint Mary's. We are living here together in a community group. We want freedom, but disobeying the rules of the school is not the way to obtain it. At times these rules seem hard and unnecessary, but always remember they were made for the benefit of the group as a whole and not for special individuals.

When tempted to break a rule, think of the people that may be inconvenienced, of the trouble you may cause the other members of the student body. Let's try to live together for the good of all rather than for our own selfish ends.

OPEN UP

Having a friendly smile and speaking to everyone can do a great deal towards helping one make friends. The girl who tries her hand at a few "hey's" here and there rarely finds herself without a pal. The new girls, as well as the old, appreciate friendliness more than anything else. Nothing is more pleasant than being around a cheery group of girls.

Don't go off in a corner seeking a haven for your sulkiness. Open up and show what's inside your shell, and you'll be given a look into the best bunch of girls you've ever known. Show some Saint Mary's spirit, and help us to remain the swell bunch of girls we've been for so long.

CURRENT EVENTS

All summer students have been reading the daily papers and listening to the radio with absorbing interest. Keeping up with Herr Hitler was (and is) an all-time job.

However, now that school has already gotten under way students are concentrating on work and daily lessons. School work is, of course, an integral and major part of life at Saint Mary's, but it should not exclude knowledge of current events. One is apt to get the feeling that we have a world of our own here disconnected from anything that might happen in Europe.

Unfortunately, that is not the case. Witness the closing of the tobacco markets in this section as a result of the withdrawal of English buyers, in consequence of which many boys and girls will not be going off to school this year. Whether we think so or not, we are affected both directly and indirectly by European affairs. It is up to us to at least know what is going on, even if we can do nothing about it. If you take a daily paper, read it, well and good. If not, it takes but a very few minutes to go to the library and read at least the front page. It would certainly be to your advantage, and *The Belles* urges you to keep up with the world.

NEUTRALITY

U. S. college students—some 1,400,000 strong—returned to classrooms and campuses last month amid a loud chorus of warnings and implorings. They were warned by the press and the President to maintain an open and thinking attitude on the present European war. They were implored to use their every influence to keep the United States out of the war and to bend every energy to a sincere study of the world's problems and how they can be met.

From the surveys that have appeared to date, it appears that the average collegian has heeded these warnings and these commands. He maintains that he does not want to go to war, that he wants the United States selling goods of all kinds to warring nations, so long as it is on a cash-and-carry basis. First real objection to the President's proposed neutrality act changes was made at Saint John's University, where 650 students signed a letter to the Chief Executive protesting "a new partisan neutrality act without first consulting the people through the medium of a referendum." This movement has not yet gained much headway.

College newspaper editorial opinion, though about evenly divided, seems leaning toward the President's proposal that the neutrality act be changed to provide for sale of materials to belligerents that can pay for them and transport them from our shores.

The arguments of those who oppose the change is neatly summarized by the Saint John's University Record: "If the embargo were lifted business would undoubtedly flourish in America—for a while, that is, as long as Britain and France could pay cash. Britain and France, because Germany would never be allowed to purchase here. After England and France could not pay cash, our loans to the democracies would almost inevitably begin again. And there is the danger! That is how we started last time."

For the affirmative, the University of Iowa Daily Iowan states the case: "Congress has two facts to go by. (1) We want peace. (2) We'd fight—or a substantial minority of us would—if defeat began for the democracies. The logical conclusion to this line of reasoning is lifting the arms embargo now."

Whatever their position, most editorials affirm the fact that United States collegians do not want to fight on a foreign soil, but they will bear arms if our own land is threatened. Just how strongly entrenched this belief is will be determined in the dark days of propaganda that lie ahead.—*Associated Collegiate Press*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR EDITOR:

Let me be the first to congratulate you on the perpetration of the idea of an open forum column in your newspaper. I think that such a column can do untold good in school by acting as the mouthpiece of the students and the earpiece of those in authority who can order improvements. Last year I often wanted to submit complaints or to express my gratitude for some improvement on the campus, but somehow there was nobody in particular to receive them; so I remained silent. And often I was struck with thoughts that I would like to have submitted for public discussion, but

where was I to air them? I certainly am glad that at last somebody with some authority behind her is showing a genuine interest in the opinions of *The Belles* readers. And I certainly hope that the readers will respond. I, for one, intend to contribute many discussions, whether critical or complimentary. I don't see why all the members of the faculty and the student body won't feel that your column is a fine way of expressing themselves, and I am sure that as they discuss their opinions they will feel much more interested in school activities. In making random suggestions for work, they will certainly help the organizations. You might have a perfectly grand idea for the use of one of our clubs—the Granddaughters, the Drive Committee, the Circle. And of course just straight discussions of subjects inside or outside school would always be welcome. Now, I must stop. I am waxing so enthusiastic over your column that I shall scare away your readers. I think that this column is a useful as well as interesting improvement on the newspaper and I wish you much luck.

Sincerely,
ERWIN GANT.

ART AT SAINT MARY'S

Forty-two girls at Saint Mary's voluntarily spend five hours a week, almost two hundred hours a year, doing extra work and taking extra lessons. Why? They do not get any more credit towards graduation. It is not one of those personality courses which supposedly develop a girl's charm, beauty, and style. No one is elected to an office. Very seldom have these hard workers been mentioned in *The Belles* for their deserving struggles. Why do they do it? There must be a reason, and a good one.

Step inside the art studio some time, and you will understand. You may know where it is, upstairs in the Library Building. It is a huge room, filled with the sunny air from big, open windows. There are three narrow tables long enough to seat a dozen girls each, plenty of chairs, and several stands on which are erected white statues of Venus de Milo, Winged Victory, and others.

A number of students are usually sitting at the tables, busily absorbed in sketching still life, drawing fashion figures, or painting. Proof of their enjoyment is found in their fascinated expressions and their frequent smiles.

Miss Harris offers two main courses in drawing, the commercial and the "general background" course. The commercial course teaches lettering, illustrating, and gives foundation instruction for advertising, fashion illustration, and typical magazine illustration. The general course includes painting, design, composition, freehand drawing. Although many girls take art for the relaxation and fun it gives, there are some who are working for the prized "certificate" which can be acquired only after two or three years of study. These girls are Mary Willis Douthat, Gertrude Carter, Erwin Gant, Hak Kendrick, Mary Stanley Bernard, and Ann Brooks.

You may see samples of the abilities of your own classmates by looking through a stack of pictures on the table just inside the studio door. These were done during the unsupervised hours, two of which are included in each week's work. Thus students are given opportunity to develop their originality by choosing their own subjects and portraying them exactly as they wish. Erwin Gant's versatility is evidenced by the winsome, blue china duck she reproduced on paper; the sparkling highlights she painted in a clear glass vase; the tree she sketched in pencil. Eleanor Grant drew a design of birds fluttering around a branch clustered with berries. There is a painting by Mary Willis Douthat of a typical college room: bright colors, clothes scattered here and there, stockings hanging in a window to dry, and saddle shoes lying on the floor. In contrast to the expected pictures of glamour girls and dress models, architecture seems to interest Christine Hatfield.