

# The Belles

OF SAINT MARY'S

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

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## THE HALL COUNCIL

A new governing body has been installed as a part of our Student Government—the Council of Hall Presidents. This is a direct step toward a more complete plan of Student Government in the school. It is a movement that places more power and responsibility in the hands of the student body, yet we still hear a few words of protest against this improvement. A few are questioning its soundness. They are asking what will happen if it doesn't work. Fortunately, the founding fathers didn't allow such a consideration to deter them.

Let us understand once and for all that this Hall Council *will* be a success if we want it to be. There is no way it can fail if we back it to the limit, for it is a body that is planned and instituted by us. Student Government unquestionably depends upon the coöperation of all for smooth functioning.

If the few who doubt the ability of this Council will put that same energy into backing it, we shall no longer have reason to worry over its success.

Naturally any plan that gives more power to the students will also demand more responsibility from them. After all, girls of seventeen to twenty must accept their share of responsibility. Getting behind this Hall Council and taking personal pride in backing it, can turn the trick and prove our stuff.

## HIGHWAY

The road to good grades is by no means an easy or comfortable one. For most of the new girls it has been so far a combination of hard work and an unusual amount of studying. If you are discouraged, don't give up so soon and begin writing home for permission to drop that subject which requires more work than you had planned for. Divide your study hours and arrange time for certain subjects. You can judge how much studying you need now that "Test Week" is over and monthly grades are circulating. Remember, the adjusting grades are the hardest to bear.

## "FIRST IMPRESSION"

Each Sunday many visitors come to Saint Mary's. They may have traveled for many miles, or they may be citizens of Raleigh. Since the chapel is the center and heart of our school, they often worship there.

As they take part in the services or listen to the music as it searches in every darkened corner, they will form a "first impression." Naturally, it will be the most important, for it will remain fixed as their conception of Saint Mary's. If scattered murmuring or undertones should catch their attention, the impression would not be so nice.

The services as a general rule are short, and it should not require much effort on the part of the students to refrain from those few whispered words which are so disturbing. This is

an appeal to you to cease this annoying habit. If lack of reverence doesn't prevent this talking, common and decent consideration for those who do have it should be a good excuse.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR EDITOR:

I know this subject has been mentioned several times before to the student body, but it seems to me that it should be brought up again: it is the subject of loud talking among students going and coming from chapel, especially on Friday nights, and I think they would do much better if they stopped to think. Everyone knows how much disturbance it creates on Friday night when talking begins just as soon as the service is over. Certainly it isn't very helpful to a reverent feeling to hear people "shhshing" on every side. Then, too, in the morning loud talking outside the chapel disturbs those who have already begun their worship. Anyone who has been to chapel early knows how bad it really sounds.

There has been some improvement lately, but there is still room for a great deal more. It's not much to ask, so why not let's have quiet just for the short time of going in and coming out of chapel.

BECKY BARNHILL.

DEAR EDITOR:

*Pro and con*, a great deal has been said about the Hall Council. Even after the group discussions of last week, conflicts of opinions still exist. Having heard a number of these, I would like to try to clarify the misunderstandings by a review of the Hall Council and its functions.

Ever since I have been at Saint Mary's I have heard the questions: "What have little regulations to do with honor? Why should they be classed with stealing, cheating, and lying? Is the breaking of minor rules a reflection upon character?"

With these and other problems in mind, the school has sought to distinguish between dormitory regulations, and those rules which do definitely involve honor. This deliberate divorce of dormitory from Honor Council jurisdiction does not remove from the former any requirements of honor. In matriculating at Saint Mary's, each girl automatically accepts citizenship in our Student Association and the responsibility that citizenship embraces.

The Hall Council, a new governing body, is not a proctor system in which sole responsibility rests upon the Hall President, but is still a matter of responsibility for every girl. Also it is a mistaken belief that the creation of the Hall Council diminishes the importance of the Honor Council. The Hall Council has jurisdiction over minor offenses, while the older body remains the "Supreme Court" which deals with such serious matters as lying and cheating.

The Hall Council is a progressive step in line with the Student Government. It is not, as some believe, a scheme of inflicting more and worse punishment; this year's rules are the same as last year's. And if the students consider the penalties unreasonably severe, it is through their new Hall Council that they can modify them. The right of the Hall Council to question any girl it wishes is a necessary right, for often a violation must be judged on its individual merit rather than a mechanical case. It insures each girl the right to defend herself in cases that are not the routine, lights-out-at-eleven, sort.

As for routine regulations, many do not realize how precious are the privileges now extended to a dormitory. Formerly—and it was not so long ago—the faculty was in charge of discipline enforcement. Rules were rigid, and only with Student Government were such privileges as lights until eleven allowed. They were granted then only with the understanding that the students regulate them and see that they are not abused. Now by means of the Hall Council the students are attempting to live up to this condition and to see to the enforcement of dormitory discipline; only by regard for it can we

keep our often unappreciated privileges. So the question remains: Can we prove ourselves worthy of the dormitory privileges given us and can we prove ourselves capable of more and more self-government, more and more responsibility, year by year?

I am convinced that the Hall Council can do untold good, but only with the coöperation of the whole student body. I think, too, that if this strengthening of Student Government is understood in its true character and purpose, it will be wholeheartedly supported. As a third-year girl at Saint Mary's and a member of the student body, I welcome it and hope every girl here will do the same.

MARY WILLIS DOUTHAT.

## AND SO WE GET THE MAIL

A stranger at Saint Mary's, passing the dining hall some morning, would doubtless be startled by the mad rush of students after breakfast. She would see the whole student body racing hurriedly down the path, dashing helter-skelter over the grass in the direction of East Rock. If she followed to see where the fire was, she would discover herself being led to the post office, where the crowd slows down and forms into a line stretching the length of the hall and out the side door.

At the front of the line, behind the post office window stands Miss Sutton busily passing out letters. A buzz of voices fills the air, eager, excited voices: "Have I got a letter in my box?" . . . "Oh, I have!" . . . "Betty, do you see anything in 144?" . . . Some of the voices drop to bitter disappointment, "Oh, my mail box is empty!" "I haven't gotten a letter for three days."

When you happen to be lucky enough to have a place in line, with mail waiting for you at the other end, it's very interesting to watch the murmuring swarms and to notice the expressions of your classmates. Margaret Jordan, calm and confident, gazes over the bobbing heads and after glancing at the four letters in her box, takes her place in line. Mary Taylor, her black eyes sparkling, scurries into the post office, scurries out again, and scurries into line; Mamie and "Sug" are beaming at each other—John Earle and Dave have sent extra fat letters this time. It is really pathetic, and usually obvious, if some of us are being temporarily forgotten by our families or forgotten (period) by some other important people who are supposed to remember. It is then that our faces become grim and grave and we *stride* back to our halls in silence.

Miss Sutton is quite used to this daily Saint Mary's drama. She recalls the days when the letters were given out in a very different way.

"During the recreation hour after dinner," she tells us, "Miss McVae would sit in the parlor calling out the names and handing out letters around a table. At one time the Saint Mary's mail was put in a box just off the campus. Some girl given the responsibility of getting the letters and giving them out as she returned to the main building. Then there was a time when the mail was received in the dining room, too."

The post office is now opened three times a day. Tibbie Tucker, Miss Sutton's able assistant, helps her each morning. Miss Sutton alone hands out the newspapers after lunch, and Tibbie does it before dinner at night.

The post office involves much more responsibility than the handling of letters, however. Miss Sutton has charge of the classroom supplies, sees that the welcome "packages from home" are sent to our rooms, and has our dry cleaning sent out for us. In spite of responsibilities and busy days, she finds time to be a friend to all the girls.

## IDEALS

What does Saint Mary's as a whole stand for? What have I done to keep her standards high? (Have you ever asked yourself these questions?)

The first one can be answered thus: Saint Mary's stands for Honor. Honor is the most