

# The Belles

OF SAINT MARY'S

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

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Associated Collegiate Press

## NAVAL BASES . . . PERMANENTLY?

It has been suggested by the House Naval Affairs subcommittee that we take immediate steps toward the permanent acquisition of eight Atlantic bases now under ninety-nine-year leases from Britain to the United States in exchange for fifty over-age destroyers.

The committee stated that the United States Navy had thus far spent a total of \$130,000,000 on these bases. Since we have acquired the right to build them on foreign territory, it would be a mistake to abandon the bases even after ninety-nine years. This period of time is negligible in the life of a nation and rather than wait until the termination of the lease, the committee advised that we begin negotiations immediately. They also urged that we enter into a policy of naval collaboration with Brazil, including arrangements to turn over to Brazil after the war our surplus battleships.

The bases in question are located in Newfoundland, Trinidad, the Bahamas, British Guiana, Antigua, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Bermuda. The base of Trinidad is the most important of those obtained from Great Britain, and the Committee recommended that we insure the permanent status of our fleet in these waters.

The presentation of our surplus battleships to Brazil will prevent the deterioration of costly naval equipment and provide a useful purpose for vessels which might otherwise never be used again.

Needless to say, the plan for both the acquisition of bases and the donation of battleships seems very wise. It is not only practical, but it is also a step forward in our Pan-American policy of hemispheric co-operation. It may be mentioned that if Brazil had not co-operated in naval base operations, the African invasion might have been delayed two years.

## LEARNED OR LIVID?

Girls consider baking for hours on the sunporch an essential activity in these warm spring days, but many disadvantages are involved. Severe sunburn is dangerous and may lead to a severe illness. Long exposures to the sun should be avoided, certainly until the skin has gradually become tanned. This constant baking actually ages the skin. This aged, weather-beaten skin is exhibited by such persons as sea captains and farmers whose jobs necessitate long exposures to the sun. A moderate amount benefits the body while an excess poisons the body with toxin. In brief, sunburn is the same as fireburn and may cause much damage to physical health.

Time is precious now that examinations are drawing near, and every spare minute should be used in studying. Hours wasted by girls, who damage their health by baking in the sun, could easily be used in other ways more beneficial to their physical and mental well-being.

## WE SALUTE THE JUNIORS

In the last issue, the *Belles'* suggestion that some class (Juniors, for instance) endow a book fund for the library by making a respectable cash donation in May, and thus set a precedent which subsequent Junior classes might follow.

Naturally the *Belles* is highly pleased that the Junior class has accepted and acted on the suggestion, and hereby congratulates the Juniors on their generosity, and on setting a precedent for future Junior classes.

Perhaps other classes will wish to do something for their Alma Mater too.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A week ago the editor received a sharply worded letter bluntly criticizing a few of the faculty hostesses in the parlor, but the letter was anonymously signed, "A Student." Like all fair newspapers, the *Belles* refuses to publish controversial letters that are unsigned. So, in assembly the editor promised to publish the letter if signed. The response to this appeal was as follows:

DEAR FRENCHIE,

You asked who wrote the letter on courtesy. I'm afraid I can't tell you. If you don't print it, well—that's that. I haven't enough faith in human nature to believe that my name wouldn't be mud to all the members of the faculty to whom the letter applied.

Most school papers, I believe, have an open forum where students can say what's on their minds without having to sign their name. Why not try it, or suggest it to Maria for next year? I believe you'd get more co-operation and interest from the students. You've been trying to get the student body to take part—here's a way.

We're supposed to have freedom of speech and freedom of the press in this country. Why not print my letter? Or is the faculty afraid of criticism?

THE STUDENT.

The editor regrets that any student should feel it "unsafe" to express a criticism if it is a fair one.

The editor discussed this matter with Mrs. Cruikshank, who author-

ized the editor to say that she would stand back of and "protect" any student who has a fair criticism to make.

520 Glendalya Ave.  
 Spartanburg, S. C.  
 April 18, '44.

Editor of *The Belles*,  
 Saint Mary's

Dear Editor:

I always read your publication with much pleasure and was especially interested in your review of Blair Niles' book contained in the last issue.

Thinking perhaps you would like to know something of the author, I venture to take a little of your valuable time at a very busy season.

Blair Niles is the daughter-in-law of Mrs. R. L. Niles, Sr., of New York, and her husband is Robt. L. Niles, Jr., architect and real estate man.

Mrs. Niles, Sr., was Roma Lyman, and daughter of Bishop Lyman of North Carolina, and is an alumna of Saint Mary's, being a pupil there in 1874 and '5. She and I were the youngest girls in school and formed a friendship that has continued unbroken for nearly seventy years.

Blair Niles has written a good many books of travel and several novels. One of her most noted books was one on *Devil's Island*. I believe she was the only woman ever permitted in that place of horror.

With all good wishes for you and your work, I remain

Very sincerely,  
 (Mrs. W. E.) ELLA TEW LINDSAY.

(Mrs. Lindsay is the grandmother of Pauline Lindsay, who graduated from Saint Mary's two years ago.—EDITOR.)

## PEALS

We wish to clarify the misunderstanding as to why the Junior-Senior dance has been so named. It is not because most of the male element will be decidedly Junior.

\* \* \*

Seniors have regretfully begun their last assignment of parallel reading. Mr. Moore says this goes to prove that English 31 is just one idyll after another.

\* \* \*

The epidermis of Saint Mary's scholars is noticeably lighter than that of their less serious associates, these days. The rays can't quite make it through the library roof.

\* \* \*

The Literary Societies have been debating the race question and appear to have spread the subject to the classroom, where one of the suggested solutions reminded the students of Simon Legree.

\* \* \*

Hitler observed his 55th birthday on April 20, in conservative fashion. With the Russians' increase of the German mortality rate, it is unlikely that we shall have to endure the 56th of these funereal occasions.

\* \* \*

It seems that the Senior Class has been reading Swift lately. He certainly was a source of inspiration to

two "modest" members who think satire, like Pope, can cut two ways.

According to current news sheets, civilian Errol Flynn has been preparing himself for battle. In the past week he has been slapped, jabbed by a fork, and hit with an egg in various night spots. He's taking it like a soldier.

\* \* \*

In the spring a young girl's fancy turns to thoughts of love . . . but the Army and Navy deny that any such impulse is an excuse for furlough. Anyway, in 1950 they'll be sorry.

## BELLES

FRANCES DAVENPORT  
 RYLANDER

Home—Americus, Georgia.

Age—18.

Hair 'n' eyes—dishwater and speckled.

Ambition—to get a "sheepskin" with the rest of the flock.

Pet hate—moody and hate-it; Boas and how.

Spends spare time—ice skating.

Always heard—"Hurry, Molly."

Always seen—never heard!

Hobby—collecting boxes (eh, Miss Cate?).

Favorite article of clothing—my blue striped pajamas.

Favorite perfume—"Beau Catcher."

Favorite food—chocolate ice cream.

Favorite song—*I'll Be Around*.

Is looking forward to—graduation.

Odd likes—hikes on the bus.

Worst fault—rushing other people.

Is wild about—the Navy.

No athletic event would be complete without this agile senior in there pitching. Frances is a good sport in more ways than one, for her even temper, her sweetness, and her friendliness have all contributed to her popularity. She is a member of the Sigma Athletic Society, Letter Club, Political Science Club, Altar Guild, Hall Council, and is a Squad leader. She's quiet and all that, but needs watching.

## MARY HODGES PERSON

Home—Stantonsburg.

Age—18.

Hair 'n' eyes—brown and brown.

Ambition—to be broad-minded.

Pet hate—indifference.

Spends spare time—reading (English novels).

Always heard—"What are his initials?"

Always seen—reading.

Hobby—I don't have one.

Favorite article of clothing—three-piece suit.

Favorite perfume—"Blue Grass."

Favorite food—steak.

Favorite song—*Without a Song*.

Is looking forward to—meeting "that Czech."

Odd likes—strawberry shortcake for breakfast.

Worst fault—forming false first opinions of people.

Is wild about—Mr. Rochester.

A trim appearance, bangs, a pleasant smile—these add up to Hodge Person. Her friends consider themselves lucky to know her. She is an obliging member of the Mu Athletic Society, German Club, Altar Guild, Doctors' Daughters' Club, and Political Science Club.