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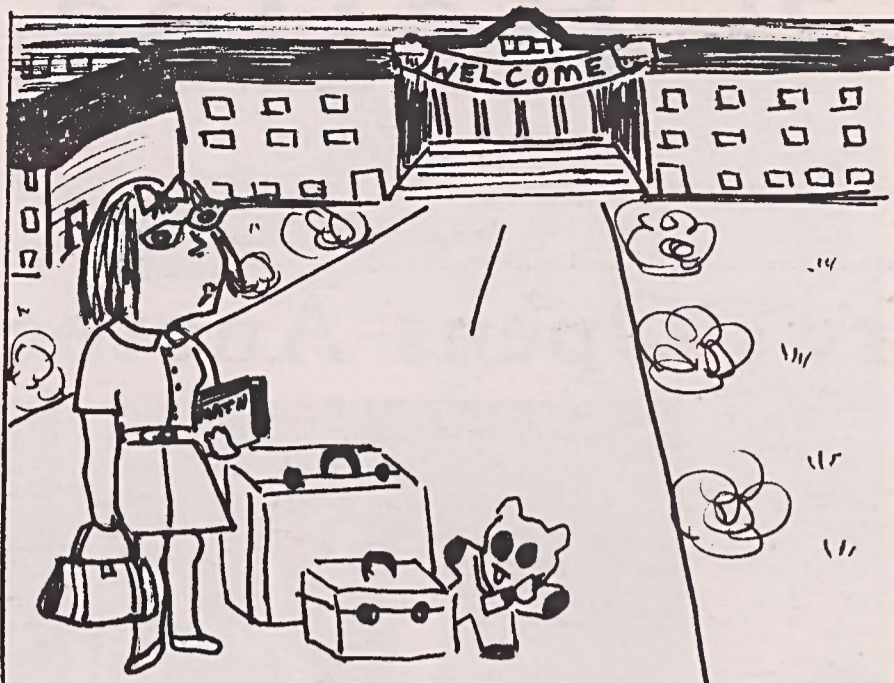
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I, BETSY ROSS, Editor, certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.



It's Just That First Day!

FOCUS ON MADAME NHU

By Ibis Ponton

Women are not new to Vietnamese history, yet none of them has played as vital a part as Madame Nhu. Today Madame Nhu is influencing the history of this Oriental country with her energy, her charm, her sharp tongue, her militant Catholicism (she was converted to Catholicism after her marriage in 1943), and her husband's family. She is married to the younger brother of the president of Viet Nam. This younger brother serves as President Diem's close friend and advisor, and his wife, Madame Nhu, serves as the official First Lady for the bachelor president. Madame Nhu, instead of being hated or respected or popular, like a Western political figure, is feared—fear intensified by the ignorance and bloodshed which are constantly racing the Vietnamese people. The secret of Madame Nhu's power is President Diem's desperate fear of a public display of family friction. Therefore, he allows his petite sister-in-law to order around army generals and cabinet ministers, and to order even him around. In reality she holds only two public offices: Deputy in the National Assembly and Chief of South Viet Nam's Women's Movements. And as if this were not enough, Madame Nhu brags that Diem is unable to curb her power even though the United States has been for years urging him to stop her.

A religious crisis is currently facing South Viet Nam. Diem's regime is Catholic and refuses to tolerate the Buddhists. In her position Madame Nhu could do much to help remedy the situation, yet she makes no effort to do anything but enforce her own opinions. Last summer when a Buddhist monk burned himself to death in protest against intolerance, Madame Nhu was unsympathetic. Her only comment was "beat the Buddhist demonstrators three times harder." The Vietnamese government was embarrassed and hastened to say that Madame Nhu's opinions did not represent those

of the Government. The South Vietnamese ambassador to the United States was especially embarrassed; he is Tran Van Chuong, Madame Nhu's father. He disapproves of his daughter, and she calls him a coward. But since this friction is on a different side of the family, perhaps it does not upset President Diem. Madame Nhu has split with her family and has replaced them with her husband's relatives.

The entire situation in South Viet Nam is a terrible problem for the United States. In order to protect Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and the Malay Peninsula, the United States must protect South Viet Nam. For this protection one million dollars a day plus 14,000 soldiers are being poured into the country to help fight the Red Chinese guerrillas. The United States is in a bad position, for it is supporting an aristocratic, totally un-democratic government controlled by President Diem and his relatives. The President's family is not popular, yet it dominates the politics and the economics of South Viet Nam. One reason for this domination is that members of Diem's family control every important position in the South Vietnamese government. Besides Madame Nhu and her husband, Ngo Dinh Nhu, who is Diem's political counselor, Diem's other three brothers hold the following positions: Ngo Dinh Thue is the Roman Catholic Archbishop, Ngo Dinh Can runs the city of Hue and surrounding central Viet Nam, and Ngo Dinh Luyen serves as South Viet Nam's ambassador to Great Britain and to several other European countries.

Madame Nhu and her daughter are currently traveling in Europe. Madame Nhu hopes to disperse all misunderstandings regarding South Viet Nam and President Diem's regime; perhaps if she were to remove herself from the political picture of South Viet Nam, there would be fewer misunderstandings.

Noted Lecturer Comes To St. Mary's

T. H. White, a noted author whose novel of the life of King Arthur inspired the Broadway musical "Camelot", lectured at St. Mary's on Monday, October 7. His subject was the Roman Emperor Hadrian. Mr. White was introduced by Miss M. M. Morrison, who mentioned interesting details of Mr. White's life. By way of introduction, Miss Morrison informed the audience that Mr. White has been highly praised by various literary critics. One such critic said "All things, all knowledge, are his province."

Mr. White, who is avidly interested in all phases of learning, lectured on the character, general personality, and contributions of the Emperor Hadrian to the civilized world. He pointed out that although Hadrian had absolute power, he managed to retain his genial and pleasant good humor and sense of justice. Mr. White commented that Hadrian was a somewhat eccentric emperor, who not only encouraged the civilization of the countries ruled by Rome, but also practiced the theory of civilization himself. Hadrian was a sculptor, an artist, a musician, an athlete, and above all an architect.

Mr. White enriched his lecture with slides taken in various European museums. Mr. White also showed slides of his temple to Hadrian, which is located near his home in the Channel Islands off the coast of Normandy.

After his lecture, Mr. White and interested members of the audience adjourned to Faculty House, where they discussed such diverse subjects as William Golding's novel *Lord of the Flies*, Walt Disney's approaching release of "The Sword in the Stone", which is based on Mr. White's novel, and current trends in the motion picture industry.

Wanted! Student Support

A student government is only as effective as are the students who support and back it. Likewise a student newspaper is the product of the students only when it represents the students.

The BELLES is designed to be a representative newspaper. Therefore, the ideas and opinions of the BELLES' staff make up only a small percentage of those of the student body. Consequently, we hope that you the students will take advantage of the opportunity for self-expression that is so freely offered here at St. Mary's. Quite often we complain about the way things are done or the way things are not done, but how often do we take time to voice our opinions so that everyone will have a chance to consider them?

This year we urge you to help us to make the BELLES a successful publication. Let us hear any suggestions, ideas, or opinions that you may have. Let's make the BELLES a student newspaper.