

## FOCUS

By Hettie Johnson

Although most of us are aware of the changes in the academic standards which have been made at St. Mary's this year, the full significance of these changes may not have been realized by all. This week in "Focus" I would like to actually do what the title of this article implies—focus the student body's attention on an issue, the issue in this case being the changes that have been made, the importance that they have, and the intelligent and considerate way in which certain difficulties which arose from the changes have been resolved by the faculty and administration.

The changes which have been made have altered the grading system, the quality point system, and the qualifications for graduation. The grading system has been changed from the system based on 90-100=A, below 60=F, to the system based on 94-100=A, below 70=F. The quality point system graded from A=3 has been changed to the system graded from A=4. In keeping with the quality point system change, the quality point requirement for graduation has been changed from 60 to 120.

Many students who will, no doubt, realize that earning good grades is going to be difficult, may not realize the greater import of these changes. By innovating the four point system here at St. Mary's, the administration and faculty are helping the school to raise its standards to the level of most colleges and universities to which St. Mary's students will transfer. Since applications from schools on the four point system are received more favorably by most four year institutions, present St. Mary's students will have a great advantage which students of previous years did not have. The student who is on a four point system here at St. Mary's will also have a better idea of how she will do in another college on a four point system, and will thus be able to make better choices when deciding where she will transfer.

In the preparation for changing the academic standards the faculty and administration evidently overlooked the difficulties which the changes would present for students who had spent a year at St. Mary's on the old system. These difficulties included the necessity of having to use the old three point quality point system while using the grading system designed for the four point system, the problem of having grades perhaps a letter grade lower this year while studying as much as last year, and the problem of determining the student's overall numerical average earned during her years at St. Mary's.

When these problems, and the fact that second year students entered St. Mary's when the old grading system was stated in the handbook, were pointed out by various students and were discussed with a faculty member in a senior class meeting, the situation was brought to the attention of the administration and faculty, who, showing the same concern for the best interests of the student body that was seen when they first changed the system, decided that the

## EDITORIAL

### UNUSUAL SPIRIT ON CAMPUS

An unfamiliar spirit has appeared lately on the St. Mary's campus. This new spirit is one of lack of co-operation and lack of interest in the school and its activities.

This feeling has manifested itself on the speedball field, at the Senior Open House, and in chapel.

At the Sigma Mu games, often the only voices raised in cheers are those of the cheerleaders, who are there to lead the other girls, not yell by themselves.

Some girls have complained about having to go to the games and have retaliated by ignoring the game and only recording the score on their little white cards.

Again, at the Senior Open House, this same expression of "Do I have to go?" popped up. Admittedly, many had tests the next day and it did take valuable time away from studying to go to the Open House, but the seniors also worked quite hard to prepare the fun for the juniors.

In chapel, the lack of consideration is almost appalling. While one side of the church is still finishing a psalm, the other side is busy throwing their prayer books into the racks with as much noise as possible.

In answer to the often repeated question "Do I have to go?", the answer is "no." Although certain rules bind one to obey, the individual student must be guided by her own rule of manners and common consideration for others.

Now is the time for each girl here to re-evaluate her own code of behavior and to think seriously about why she is here. The school owes no obligation to her for gracing the campus with her presence. If anything, she should seriously think about how she can best serve the school.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### UNICEF DRIVE

The CCUN of St. Mary's collected \$24 Monday night in their "Trick-or-Treat-for-UNICEF." The money will be sent to the United Nations to provide food and clothing for impoverished children all over the world.

### HONOR WEEK

The week of November 8-14 has been designated by the Student Government as Honor Week.

*old system would remain in effect this year for sophomores and seniors.*

I hope that after having focused her attention on the changes that have been made, their significance, and the way in which these changes were handled by the faculty and administration, every student will have a better understanding and appreciation of the changes, and especially, an appreciation of the efforts of the people who made these changes possible.

## Responsibility of Americans

At this moment a war is being waged somewhere on the other side of the world. It is a war that may prove to be more important to us of this generation than anything else in our lifetimes.

Many attitudes—some commendatory, some disappointing—have come about in modern day America as a result of this war in Viet Nam.

Many of our contemporaries around the country have reacted quite juvenile, in burning their draft cards and other such immature acts to denounce the role the United States is playing in the war-torn Asiatic country.

In contrast, the Associated Press carried a story last week that told of student leaders on college campuses who were planning demonstrations country-wide in support of the American forces in Viet Nam.

We, as members of a generation who will inherit the full brunt of the outcome of this war should carefully consider our individual feelings in this matter.

Our country is committed to helping the Viet Nameese government. Of that, there can be no doubt as the toll of lives aptly signifies.

The major issue facing us is how are we as young Americans going to act? Are we going to burn our draft cards, stage marches on the capitol, and in general let our government know that we care to have nothing to do with the entire war at all?

A much better alternative would be to participate in parades and such on Veterans Day on November 11 or help in any of the volunteer groups that are continually sending aid to the American soldiers.

Let us come out in full force behind our government. It matters little whether one hates President Johnson and his Viet Nam policies or feels that Congress is a nest of "war mongers." America is *our* country and her today is our tomorrow. Let's not throw it all away through provincial isolationism.

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## Letter To The Editor

To Jean Muchmore and the Senior Class:

We just want to let you know how much we enjoyed your Halloween Open House.

"The only bad thing is that we don't have it to look forward to more." "The most fun I've had in years" and "Sure will be hard to follow next year" are only a few of the comments that we heard.

The refreshments on the first floor, the second floor entertainment, the third floor horrors all reflected originality and imagination, as well as the fortune-teller under the stairs.

Thank you again for helping us new juniors to feel like a real part of St. Mary's.

Sincerely,  
2nd West Room