

# The Belles

OF ST. MARY'S

VOL. XXIX, NO. 9.

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

March 11, 1966

## School Infirmary Breeds Discontent

After a poll of student opinion, it became evident that there is a long list of grievances against the school infirmary. These grievances seem to have increased in number and variety within the last several months. In questioning girls, it was found that the fault lies not in the actual medical treatment received, but in the attitude expressed towards the student.

It seems to be a general procedure of the infirmary to accuse an obviously ill student of attempting to enter the infirmary in order to avoid a test for which she is unprepared.

"Why don't they believe you when you say you're sick?" asked one student. She thinks that a student would not delight in missing her classes and/or tests for forty-eight hours with the prospect of make-up work unless she is feeling badly; and, more often than not, she will postpone entering the infirmary because of her work load.

However, when the students finally decide that they should go to the infirmary, they generally encounter such frustrating circumstances that many prefer to take their precious cuts and remain in their rooms.

"It's a shame," said one student, "that when you get sick you don't have a place to go that has an atmosphere that's conducive to getting well. It makes you feel like you're committing a crime for getting sick!" Another girl added, "They make it seem like a chore to treat you and that's what they're paid to do."

Not only is the ill student met with various accusations of deceit, but also these accusations are often presented in a rude manner. There was a hundred per cent agreement among those people expressing grievances about the presence of rudeness when a girl came to the infirmary at

semester. They are sophomore Ann Dorsey Day, '64; junior, Alice Carr, '62; and freshman, Jane Williams, '65.

### NEW CAperettes

Congratulations are extended to the new Caperettes, Elaine Parker of Benson, N. C., and Lucy Turner of Pink Hill, N. C.

### New President

Congratulations are also in order for Ginny Gray who was recently elected president of Sea Saints for next year.

### Chapel Program

Presbyterian minister Jerry Brooks spoke in chapel on February 26, on the "demon-possessed" society of today and the "falseness of values."

### Converse Officer

Charlotte Smith, 1965 high school graduate of St. Mary's was elected president of the rising sophomore class at Converse College in Spartanburg, S. C.

a time inconvenient with the staff.

One student said that this treatment "makes me feel worse than I did before I went there." Another student added that a staff that is pleasant as well as considerate and understanding is conducive to a quick recovery, but that the atmosphere of our infirmary tends to make the student contrive various ways of escaping even if it means resorting to force.

Another point of discontentment touches on the rigidity of the infirmary regulations. Concerning the isolation of the sick person (whether or not her illness is contagious) from any contact with her friends and parents, one student admits, "It's complete solitary confinement . . . I wouldn't dare go over there! . . . It's like a prison!"

In reference to the regulations on visiting, which is reserved only for the doctor or relatives, "I'd rather be in a hospital," said one girl, "than be in there. . . . At least you can have visitors in a hospital!"

Another regulation which is creating much resentment is the one concerning the hours during which a girl may go to the infirmary. Many girls feel that the infirmary should not be closed to the ill person at any time.

During the "non-visiting" hours, the infirmary doors are locked. Many students noted that it is relatively impossible for a student to gain entrance without being questioned.

These remarks usually are directed at the inconvenience that she is causing because she did not become ill during the "visiting" hours. When a student became ill during one of the "non-visiting" hours, she was taken to the infirmary by her counselor.

"When I finally got in," said the student, "I . . . I felt like I was committing a sin for getting sick."

Although most students referred to the total care of the patient as being good, several grievances were mentioned concerning the proced-

ures within the infirmary. One girl complained that her bed linens had not been changed during her five-day stay. She added, "When my bed was straightened, I did it myself."

"Why is the food cold?" asked another student. "Why don't they have meals to fit the illnesses?" inquired a former patient, "I had a sore throat and had apple salad for lunch."

The heating facilities of the infirmary caused much discussion. One girl complained of waking up in the middle of the night shivering under two blankets. One of the smaller rooms in the infirmary was mentioned as being kept exceedingly cold.

"If I didn't have a cold when I went in there," said one student, "I had one when I came out!"

One of the most commonly asserted grievances was the withholding of information concerning a patient's illness. One girl admitted that when she got out of the infirmary, she didn't even know what she had had or why she had been in there.

Another student said, "I was to have a test run on me and they wouldn't tell me why . . . I was given medicine and when I asked what it was, they wouldn't tell me." Many former patients mentioned their distress at not knowing when or if they were going to be discharged from the infirmary.

The general opinion was that the patient should know what is wrong with her and approximately how long she would be in the infirmary. The withholding of such information, as one student expresses it, "lets your imagination run wild and you begin to think that you've got some incurable disease and you're never going to get out."

These are some of the reasons why so many of the students at St. Mary's are refusing to go to the infirmary. Instead, many girls have stated the desire to remain on their halls and in their rooms, preferring to take class cuts, in order to avoid these unpleasant conditions.



Mr. Connelly, as Mr. Smith comforts his "wife", played by Miss Smith.

### Evening Of Avant-Garde' Is Presented

Through the combined efforts of the faculty and the Dramatics Club an evening of avant-garde theatre was presented at St. Mary's on Wednesday, March 2.

The program was composed of two plays, Edward Albee's "The Sandbox" and Eugene Ionesco's "The Bald Soprano".

The casts of the two plays were under the direction of Mrs. Stamey and Jody Burton, who acted as student director.

"The Sandbox", a play in memory of the author's grandmother was the curtain-raiser for the evening. The cast was composed of members of the Dramatics Club.

The part of the Young Man was played by Francy Lewis, while Susan Kip was Mommy and Jean Tuchmore was Daddy.

Meg Christian was the Musician and Susan Owens played the part of Grandma, who pointed up man's insincerity in his daily life.

The second play for the evening was "The Bald Soprano", a parody on life. Members of the faculty in the cast were Mr. Robert Connelly as Mr. Smith, Miss Marguerite Marie Kiely as Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Nancy Stamey as Mary, the Maid, Miss Sue Ross as Mrs. Martin, Mr. John Tate as Mr. Martin, and Dr. Owens Hand Browne as the Fire Chief, who saves the day with his story of the common cold.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Honor Students

Patricia Renn, 1964 high school graduate of St. Mary's made the Dean's List at Garland Jr. College in Boston, Mass.

#### Hollins Honors

Three high school graduates of St. Mary's made the Dean's List at Hollins College, where they maintained a better than B average last



Lucy Turner, Rita Daniels and Ginny Gray learn how to administer their own medicines as they stock up on cough syrup, salt water and pills.