

THE BELLES OF ST. MARY'S

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FOCUS

Improvements Needed In Library

By Chyrell Botts

The function of any school library is to aid students in their studies by providing needed material and a quiet place to study. This year many of the students at St. Mary's feel that our library is not completely fulfilling this function because many of its rules and actions make it hard for students to use and enjoy the library.

Since St. Mary's has increased in size, it is difficult for students to complete their work on needed library materials when the library closes its doors at 9:45 p.m. This is especially true when students need to use the same books and materials. If the library hours could be extended, students would have more time to do their work and do it well. They would also be provided with more time to study in peace and quiet. The library hours are no longer satisfactory in providing these necessary functions and thus need to be extended.

Also, by not having a librarian or a library assistant on duty at all times, the students are not receiving the help they need in procuring library materials.

For example, if a student needs a certain periodical article, she can get it only at certain hours when a librarian or library assistant is on duty to get it for her. This situation is extremely difficult for students when many of them would like to or need to use the same article. If the librarians could apportion themselves so that someone would be on duty at all times, it would greatly aid the students.

We realize, however, that a lack of

I have calendar days to keep and miles to go before I sleep...



student assistants makes this task difficult to accomplish. If, perhaps, the wages for library assistants could be raised, the increase would encourage participation in this hard and time-consuming job.

Just as certain rules of the library hinder students in using it, certain actions taken by the library are hard to understand and prevent students from thoroughly enjoying the library. The action the library took this year in making the payment of library fines only possible between 8:15 and 8:30 and the fact that these fines can not be paid in pennies seems obviously unneeded. Many students feel that this type of action misses one of the points of why colleges have on-campus libraries. This particular point is that on-campus libraries are for the convenience of the student body, as a whole. This rule concerning fines is obviously an unnecessary inconvenience to the student body.

The students of St. Mary's realize that they are fortunate to have such a beautiful, new library and they want to help make their library a place of enjoyment and satisfaction. We feel the library would be such a place if some of the above items could be remedied.

EDITORIAL

RECOGNIZE HONOR

Throughout this week the Student Government has placed emphasis on honor at St. Mary's.

Posters in the halls, sermons in chapel, and speeches in assembly constitute the recognition of Honor Week. In each of the sermons and speeches, there was one general aim: to instill in each girl the importance of honor and the honor code on the St. Mary's campus.

To say that someone is honorable is an admirable quality. How many of you can be said to be honorable? How many of you live faithfully by our honor code? How many of you have respect for honor? At St. Mary's the honor code is the backbone of the entire school. Without an enforcement of this code the entire honor system is a failure.

Now the question is: how many of you at St. Mary's would care if the honor code were unobserved and unmeaningful? Obviously not many of you would really mind having a loosely-followed honor code. Every school has some type of honor system; but not every school has an honor system that works.

When girls come to St. Mary's for

the first time, there is a big transition in the school systems. At most high schools, there is no honor code. Cheating, among other things, is often not condemned. Girls come to St. Mary's and find that the teachers leave the rooms for quizzes and the students do not cheat. But the honor code involves more than just cheating.

What the honor code does is that each girl has a dual responsibility, not only to her school, but to herself. She is on her honor to maintain the highest standard of personal behavior as well as to respect any other girl who lowers the standard.

The Student Government cannot do their jobs alone. They need us to back them up.

Do not take the Honor Week speeches with a grain of salt. Listen to them, think about them, and serve them. Without a united effort made by each individual girl, the Student Government cannot succeed.

Let us place emphasis on honor throughout the entire year - not for just one week.