

THE BELLES OF ST. MARY'S

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ST. PAT'S DAY

By Donna Whitehurst

St. Patrick's Day, March 17, is a great day for the Irish, honoring the patron saint of Ireland. This feast day is celebrated throughout the world, wherever there are Irish people.

St. Patrick converted the Irish people to Christianity and came to be known as the one who "found Ireland all heather and left it all Christian." St. Patrick founded over three hundred churches and baptized over one hundred twenty thousand people.

Many legends have grown up about St. Patrick. One of them tells of his using the shamrock to illustrate the idea of the trinity. The shamrock is the national plant of Ireland. According to legend, St. Patrick planted the shamrock in Ireland because its three small leaves represented the Holy Trinity. The green that we wear on St. Patrick's Day is symbolic of the shamrock.

One of the best-known legends is that St. Patrick charmed the snakes of Ireland down to the seashore so that they were driven into the water and drowned.

St. Patrick's death in March 461 has been observed since colonial days. It has been observed nationally since 1845. Each year arrangements for New York's St. Patrick's Day parade begin shortly after New Year's. The organization committee enlists the help of businessmen, churches, and government officials and employees throughout the city. Come rain or shine, it's a great day for the Irish.

ISN'T IT WONDERFUL? - ST. MARY'S
HASN'T CHANGED SINCE I WAS A
YOUNG LADY HERE!



WHAT'S THE POOP?

Dougie, we missed you in Communion on Sunday.

Martha Grundy, you'd better learn how to ride the ski lift before you try skiing.

Patricia L. has two more weeks to live.

What a place for a birthday party, Clyde!

Sue W. wants to know if anyone has some extra-long "Panty Pair."

Olivia Grimes led the laugh-in on 3rd Holt Saturday night.

Tibba and Marilee are starring in the St. Mary's production of *Hair*.

2nd Cruikshank didn't like the camera work of last week's "Tom Jones Show."

Randy has been spending a lot of money on Marian's lavalier chain.

Louisa, I hear you "yielded" Saturday night.

Just call Sally Lennon "four-eyes."

Sealy is a great tennis player. Just ask Kack.

Beacon Inducts Two

Thursday, March 6th, the Beacon inducted two new members from the sophomore class. The new members are Amy Carr of Durham and Anne Reaves of Monmouth Beach, N. J. The membership now consists of seven girls.

EDITORIAL—

GETTING INVOLVED

By Tibba Edgerton

"John hasn't written in two weeks!"

"I ruined my new dress in the rain today!"

"I can't believe Anne and Bill broke up!"

Are these our typical worries? Are we so involved in our own little world that we've forgotten that there's a big one out there? I think it's too easy for us to seclude ourselves in a small school like ours. Take for example the sophomore project of having a series of discussions and speakers on different subjects. The discussions were discontinued because not enough people were sufficiently interested in them to bother to see what they were about.

In the time it takes us to read this article, how many men will die in battle (not just Viet Nam, in which we're involved, but other countries' skirmishes too)? How many babies will die of starvation? Although the list of the world's tragedies is endless, the real tragedy for us is ourselves. The majority of those who read the *Belles* will thoughtlessly skip this article, reading only those articles which "concern them." Those who read this article may agree with it, charging them-

DEAR EDITOR:

By Louisa Rogers

I just have to disagree with viewpoints expressed in the article "Student Participation in Chapel." Maybe it is because I'm not Episcopalian and am skeptical about many common Christian beliefs, but I absolutely refuse to believe a student is "not exhibiting the proper attitude of respectfulness" when she does not, and I admit I usually don't take part in hymns or responsive readings.

A student is perfectly justified in not "participating" in chapel services if she doesn't get anything out of the ritual. Why should she "sing the hymns and repeat the responsive readings if they are meaningless to her? The only possible reasoning is that a church's success depends on the support of the congregation—an argument which was not used in the article anyway. Is the student hurting anyone? Maybe she's hurting herself, but only she can decide that. Since she's not hurting anyone else and if she feels it's not hurting herself, it is tyrannical to say that a person must sing if she doesn't feel like it and recite drills if she thinks they are stupid. Isn't it more honest to participate than to repeat meaningfully the stuff she personally feels is worthless?

"No person will rise high who has disrespect for sacred things. First, that makes it sound like "rising high" is the ultimate goal and respect for sacred things is merely a necessary step toward it. But above all, doesn't each person decide for herself what is sacred? You can't make a massive thing out of it. A person usually respects what she considers sacred; if she thinks one source of approach to God is not sacred, why should she take part in it? Chewing gum and other distractions may be obnoxious, but refraining from oral response is not annoying.

Grow up and see what religious chapel services, is all about. An approach to God cannot be dictated.

selves guilty, though not quite as guilty as others. But you are more of an exception than I am. I realize that my amateurish writing can't serve as a great inspiration to anyone, but what does it take to open our eyes? Do we literally have to be in someone else's position to care about them? Talking or writing about caring doesn't help—we need to prove we care. Nothing may change, but we have to try. As James Stewart in *Shenandoah* said, "If we don't try, we don't do it; and if we don't do it, why are we on this earth?"

Think about it. Challenge the "cruel world." If you can't help it, don't join it. If you have helped just one human being in your life, you're worthwhile. But how can we win the game if we don't enter? Back to our little world now. "And who did you say Sally dated last weekend?"