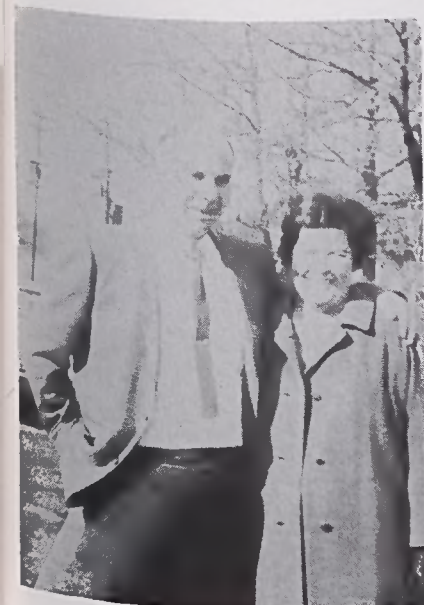


Mr. Pisani Gives His Opinions



Mr. and Mrs. Pisani



Sally and Jack Pisani

EDITOR'S NOTE: I recently had the pleasure to interview Mr. Pisani, the new President of St. Mary's. He was very open and candid in answering my questions on the following topics.

Reason For Coming to St. Marys

"As a minister, I have always had many concerns—what's going on in the world, what's happening everywhere, what some people so glibly refer to as the generation gap, and that the young people have sort of tuned out the older generation. I don't believe it. I have never had this experience in years of active ministry in a parish, and I haven't had it with the young men studying for the ministry in the seminary. Girls of your age are either on the threshold of marriage or of moving ahead in education to advanced work. But in whatever way, there is a great opportunity both educationally, spiritually and just in every general way to have the kind of climate where all these things can come together in a community of this sort. It just seems right to me and a great opportunity."

St. Mary's As a Challenge

"You can touch the lives of a lot of people. Most of you will go on to be mothers, and families still are the basic root and foundation of our whole society. Here in very precious ways the challenge exists in helping people get ready for this."

What Potential Exists at St. Mary's

"Number one—the size of the community is really good. It's a small enough community. I wonder how many of you are aware of what a privileged community this is. It is not a college of fifteen, twenty, or thirty thousand. As yet there doesn't appear to be all of the outward, overt signs of unrest of your generation that is going on. It has an affiliation with the church without having the church dominate what is done. The whole climate lends itself to a place where people can learn, and the academic side is terrifically important. The girls can also learn to relate to each other

and live with each other in a Christian atmosphere. That does not mean just going to chapel but an atmosphere in the classroom, in the dining room, in all of your relationships with each other and with the administration and, I hope, with me because this is the thing I am most hung up on. I enjoy administration, and I know all those parts of my job are going to be demanding but it's the girls here that are my primary interest—it's the students."

Why Did You Leave the Business World for the Ministry?

"I was in the printing and publishing business for a while. Newspaper work and magazines are all still high up on my list of things I like to do. Then educationally I went on to the University of Florida and taught there in extension work. Then there was the natural move when I thought that the contribution I had to make in life could be better than the ministry. This has followed—only it has turned me back once more in the particular direction my ministry is following to education."

Education Philosophy

"I think that a good education naturally is essential to everyone, and the academic side, in which you learn about subjects and the discipline of study, and the growth all are vitally important to anybody. But this is just part of it. I think part of education takes place through living with each other, part of it takes place when you eat together, and in your social life here. All of this contributes toward the growth and the development of a person. Add to it not something as a block of material pushed in, but it becomes an ongoing part of it—the whole business of the Christian life and the importance of God's love for us . . . not as some abstraction but how this manifests itself as we live together and work together. All this contributes to education. You can't get it all in the library, yet you belong in the library too."

Teaching and Preaching Plans

"I love to teach and I do hope to do some teaching. I don't know when and exactly what. It's going to depend a lot on what I encounter when I first get here. As far as preaching is concerned, as a minister I would like to share a part in the whole life of the chapel."

Campus Disorder

"I think young people generally with as much personal stake as they have in their education and as many difficult things as there are going on in the world today have every right to express their feeling and make known their needs. The faculties and administrations should be receptive to listening to the students and working with them and maintaining a kind of openness because we can learn a great deal from you. I don't like **we's** and **they's** in this. I think we all can learn from each other. In that kind of spirit of openness and give and take and when students have a good idea that seems reasonable, I don't see any reason why it shouldn't be tried. But when it gets to demands, when this gets to disorder, when this gets to almost mayhem on some campuses where people are being forced through strikes or through destruction of property to exceed to very often ill-advised requests by the students, then I think this should be dealt with more strictly than it is being dealt with in some places."

Student-Administration Relationship

"I will tell you about one little plan I have for when I first get here. I don't know what the make-up of this group would be—possibly class officers, members of your student government, and perhaps even broader than this. I'm going to look forward to having an occasion (say, maybe, once a week, at lunch if we can do it in a leisurely way and have the opportunity to talk) when I meet with the representative group of students to discuss any of the problems or any of the hopes they have for St. Mary's. I have done this at the seminary in a little different capacity. Meeting once a week with the student leaders, we could bring up everything that has anything to do with the common life at the school—their gripes, frustrations, hopes, everything and deal with it openly and honestly in an aura of trust where you all trust me, even though I am past the trustworthy age, and I trust you too. Beyond that, our home is going to be open to students because we want to get to know everyone. My wife is very much like this. My little boy is convinced that all the girls are going to adore him. He's only ten. My daughter, I hope, will be attending school here. We hope to live on campus."

Required Chapel

"I have mixed feelings about required chapel. If something is

exciting and real to where it is meaningful in the life of the students, then it's not going to be a big issue. Often the idea of anything being required bothers some people. But this is not terribly good educationally because all your life there are going to be things required. To live in the world there are requirements."

High School and College Department Together

"I have been informed by many people not only here but elsewhere that many institutions in the country are seriously studying this kind of arrangement—where the last two years of high school and the first two years of college come under one roof—easing and adjustment from high school into senior college where the students are finding it so tough. You are more mature and have your feet more on the ground when your first years of college are completed, and the logical transition from high school is helped."

Integration

"Sometimes forcing a situation is bad. You are touching on one of the most explosive things going on. Let me say this. The whole situation in terms of integration has changed. Fifteen years ago most of us in the church were working very hard toward this end both in the life of the community and the church, now the situation has gotten to the point where it is just natural aftermath of the revolution we are going through in this country to where militant groups are almost seeking a kind of separatism that was called segregation twenty years ago—saying this is the thing for the revolutionary militant black group, and the extremely liberal whites feel this same way. I think the guide line for this ought to be considering the people—what's going to happen to an individual . . . educationally, spiritually, socially, morally—everything. This ought to be the criteria that moves the school in the direction of doing this—not just gloss over the Christian conscience and immediately admit a couple of Negro students just to say we are integrated. I don't think that is terribly important anymore. I think if there can be a learning to live together, an opportunity for some sort of common life that has real meaning for both students that are already here and for students of another race, it might have some merit to it."

Poem Selected at Hollins

Rosie Motsinger, a sophomore, had a poem selected for reading at the Ninth Annual Literary Festival at Hollins College on Saturday, March 8.

Her poem was one of seventeen chosen from over 300 entries submitted by students from some twenty Virginia and North Carolina colleges and universities.

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