

The Hammer

by Laurie Sherrill

We so rarely think of the juvenile delinquent and of the gradual steps he climbs to become the adult criminal. The problems which burn the sanity from so many adult minds are problems which have smoldered and struggled for long years in the minds of children. Because of this we need to realize how eminently important the understanding and channeling of the frustrations of the young criminal are.

One must first understand the young person's situation outside of prison. If he is from Massachusetts his chances of coming from a poverty stricken family are nine in ten. He is probably a "status offender"; a nuisance to adults. He or she may be locked up for such minor offenses as breaking a curfew, drinking, smoking, or reading a dirty book, offenses which become permissible as soon as the child officially reaches required age. Some offenders may be more serious minded and may, in such a place as Philadelphia, join together to commit half of all the violent crimes taking place. If the juvenile delinquent lives in a place like New York he may find himself sentenced to an adult prison and yet denied the right to a trial by jury on the grounds that he is not an adult.

On the average it will cost the state \$5,700 yearly to keep each young person and in some states it may cost between \$10,000 and \$12,000. In other words, it would cost no more to send the juvenile delinquent to an expensive prep school with a \$100-a-month allowance, psychiatric care, and a trip to Europe than it does to keep him locked up. And what good purpose do these reformatories actually serve that we should continue to support them? Young people are subjected to humiliating rules (such as shaving their heads to insure the detection of ticks), abnormal living conditions (locked doors and barred windows), and abnormal relationships (no family and no contact with those of the opposite sex). Disciplinary measures taken are often absurd as well as extreme. Children may be forced to wear a monkey suit and stand in a cage for a month, drink from urinals, rub their faces in their own feces, or have their fingers bent back until they are broken. It is difficult to believe that a repentant and reformed attitude will evolve from such degrading acts.

Those programs which do claim to be constructive often involve the instruction of obsolete skills or of skills which will keep the juvenile delinquent securely anchored to the bottom of the social and financial scale. Even if the child is able to follow a new lifestyle inside the walls, once out he or she returns to the same environment to be influenced by the same people. The rate of recidivism proves that the system we now support is little more than a revolving door for the juvenile delinquent.



SURGEONS OF TOMORROW . . . Melrose Whitfield and Anne Read prepare for their journey to Duke Hospital with their anatomy class, April 4.



A COME-AS-YOU-ARE PARTY? . . . That's what it looks like as all members of the St. Mary's community gather to watch the streak.

Streaking Fad Strikes SMC

by Athalia Cooper

A unique new craze has ripped across the country during the past month or so; yep, you got it, ace: streaking. Surprisingly, however, it hasn't hit dear old SMC yet, except for a few pitiful attempts down the halls.

Institutions of higher learning all over the country have had streakers by the hundreds; even North Carolina has been represented exceptionally well. The daring part-time nudists haven't restricted themselves only to schools, either. There've been commendable attempts on airliners, ships, on the beaches, and numerous public sites.

There was even a streak at Salem. Why, it may not be long before Peace gets a few brave exhibitionists, too.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

It is with deep concern and disappointment that we wish to call attention to the latest "fad" — streaking — which reached St. Mary's campus March 13. The so-called "school spirit" which was exemplified was quite ironic according to the objectives of St. Mary's as outlined in the catalogue — "To provide the climate in which Christian character with its strong emphasis on concern for others may develop in all phases of life at St. Mary's . . . to encourage high ethical standards and firm moral intensity in all aspects of student life."

Granted, only a few shed their clothes, yet the "curious" crowds of enthusiasm and/or disbelief support this conduct by mere attendance. Each person decides for himself whether he will surrender his basic standards of modesty to the current appeals of popular culture. Yet, does this "provide" the climate in which Christian character with strong emphasis on concern for others, may develop or "encourage high ethical standards and firm moral integrity?" We strongly feel streaking to be evidence of moral decay, and a negative activity in the development of an individual, especially on a church school campus.

Larry Christenson, author of *The Christian Family*, provides a helpful guide for those who are sincere in their efforts to love and please God.

"A Christian must establish his own standards which prevail in the world around him. When a culture begins to disintegrate morally, the people of God must expect that the difference between their way of life and the World's will become more and more pronounced. If we are not prepared to accept the disapprobation which this may bring, then we'd better ask ourselves if we are prepared to be followers of Jesus at all."

Sincerely,
Names Withheld

What's happened to that old SMC spirit? It's true that St. Mary's girls are more modest, genteel, and refined than anyone else, but it must be admitted that we're usually first in fads. Take for example: over-alls, blue-jean skirts, topsiders, rugby shirts . . . the list is unlimited. It simply must be that our blood is too blue for streaking.

That's O.K., though; because our holding back can mean only one thing: deep down, we've got class. We are above such foolish exhibitionism; besides, it's too cold outside.

It appears, however, that St. Mary's girls may still be among the most sought-after spectators. One night, one hall received a call from the "Bowen Streakin' Service," with the message that there could be a mass streak at St. Mary's on one condition. The callee quickly asked what the condition was. (Not that anyone wants to see a bunch of boys over here, tormenting the Pinkertons!) The reply was basically this: the more money we raise, the more streakers we'll get . . .

Now, now, girls, put those wallets back up. It may be a hoax. (But just in case, there might be a rummage sale, a bake sale, and some movies in the near future. The money will be contributed to some worthy boys, uh, causes.)

Who knows . . . it may be even better just to watch, or at least read about these incidents. Why should we St. Mary's Streakettes, that is, Sprites, run the risk of being revolted, humiliated, or even corrupted? (Heaven forbid!)

Yes, this has got to be one time that we must ignore the old cliches such as: Be yourself. Don't be afraid to try anything once. Go natural . . .

As many readers will have already guessed, the above article was written before that fateful night of March 13, 1974. The mass streak (I say "mass" because over five people at St. Mary's can be considered a mass) which took place that evening just has to be the most scandalous event that this school has ever known, not to mention the most unique birthday present a president has ever received.

Also, it was probably the first time ever that the housemothers, the Pinkertons, and several policemen have had to watch, yes, simply watch, while something went on of which they disapproved. It must have been pure agony.

The crowning glory of the streakers' night, though, was when the boys joined in. Boys!? With no clothes on!? On THIS campus!?

The "St. Mary's Streakettes" was right, after all.

St. Mary's streaked . . .
Whoever said that the impossible can't happen?

SMC Nostalgia

by Sidney Jessup

The St. Mary's girls of 1899 were just as fashion conscious then as we are now. However, our tastes and styles have changed somewhat over the years. The girls then felt just as liberated with the fashions of their day as we do now.

"The fashions of 1899 bring much variation into vogue," according to one 1899 St. Mary's girl. "First the skirts will be long, then short, tight, pleated and plain. Fashionable shoes will at one moment require a pointed toe and a rounded one the next."

The young ladies of this time felt impelled to top off any outfit with a hat. The most popular hats of this day were found to be sailor hats, violet hats, rose hats, feathered hats, upturned hats, and downtilted hats. (By the way, the girls mention that the downtilted hat is going out of style.)

Below is an excerpt taken from an 1899 "Music" in which the girls state how nice it is to live in a time that they are not confined by their clothing. The girls are all glad that they have many liberated outfits which give them greater ease at sports.

If she spends the summer in the mountains, does she ever suffer from a fall caused by a very long skirt that has tangled around her feet? No; the costumes of the day correspond with the sports. Take her on the tennis courts, her skirt is always wide enough to give her a quick and free movement, not too long, nor too short, and not close fitting like the cycling skirts. How comfortable and graceful a girl looks on the basketball grounds. Tired of the dull, trying colors of long ago, our girl rather likes bright, joyous colors; red caps, pretty ties and gay trimmings on her blue or white yachting suit.

Even though styles have changed over the years, girls of today seem to wear their hair the same way the girls of 1899 did. The girls of the past described their modern day hair style as being "loose, soft waves, straight locks over the ears, or the moderate pompadour."

Since the girls of 1899 took many meticulous pains to be dressed properly, they expected their boyfriends to do likewise. They expected their beau to be dressed in immaculate sailor suit and starch white linen before they would even conceive of dating him. Of course if the young couple planned on going bicycling, the beau would be expected to wear something casual such as golf stockings, knee-breeches, bright yellow shoes, topped off with a circle-brimmed cap! Can anyone think of a more appropriate outfit for bike riding?

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