

YOUR STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE-- WHERE DOES IT GO?

by Patricia Urquhart

A growing number of students and interested faculty are becoming aware of and concerned about the fact that, although each student (both day and boarding) is paying a \$75 per year student activity fee, there are very few "student activities" occurring. Since there are 500 students presently enrolled here at St. Mary's, we have \$37,500 in our student activities fund budget. Have you noticed \$37,500 worth of student activities this year? We are beginning to feel that a Student Activities Director is essential if we are to receive full benefit from our money. As it now stands, our business manager is also in a sense our student activities director!

Of the \$37,500 fund this year, the \$16,900 that we have been able to pin down for activities that do involve students is allocated as follows:

Forum \$3,500
Belles \$3,000
Stagecoach \$8,000
Muse \$2,400
\$16,900 total

The remaining \$20,600 is put into a classification labelled "Miscellaneous" by the Business Office. Mr. B.W. Conrad, Business Manager, when asked what this surplus in the student activity fee is

used for, replied that he did not know specifically how much went to the various miscellaneous categories, "because it is a matter of small importance." When pressed for details, however, he did indicate some allocations:

- TV repairs
- juke box repairs
- bulletin boards
- mimeographed ballots
- ID pictures
- linen service losses
- orientation
- renovating Pittman Auditorium
- SGA (\$500)
- Mother-Father-Daughter Day

As we asked around campus, we discovered a few other areas where this money is allocated. For example, Mr. Roberts says that the two St. Mary's "Ambassadors" get \$150 each from this fund each year. Mr. Conrad said that student banquets and the snack bar's evening service are financed from this fund. Mr. Grogan, however, told us that all banquets are covered in the food service contract, and it is for this reason that day students must pay extra for all banquets attended.

Thus, it seems to us that the student activities fund is not being used for purposes indicated when the students are required to pay this sum.

Furthermore, all allotments that are made for student activities are in many cases not adequate. For example, Mrs. Skinner, faculty advisor of the Forum, told us that to have a really worthwhile speaker it would cost \$2,000, leaving the Forum with little money for the remainder of the year, after this one event. There seems to be no way to correct this situation. Two of the faculty advisors we talked to were not aware that the first two weeks of February is the budget-revision period, and that requests for additional money should be made at this time.

Obviously, if we are to get the full benefit of our funds, the time has come for a Director of Student Activities. What we need is an enthusiastic, concerned, and qualified director to allocate these funds in a manner which is efficient and desirable. To be most effective in allocating this \$37,500 to the students' advantage, it would be useful if we had not only a director but also a committee of elected, interested students. Are you satisfied with the \$20,600 worth of "Miscellaneous"? St. Mary's students need campus activities. We have got the money - let's use it for the purpose for which it has been collected!

FRESH IDEAS FROM FRESHMAN

Some of the St. Mary's freshmen were asked for their ideas about activities, and they responded with a wide variety of suggestions.

Kea Capel recommends a family-style dinner once in a while - "not something that is so very special, but simply a nice little thing to look forward to - a family affair!"

Many students want more concerts of disco, bluegrass, etc. Elizabeth Blades says that classical music is fine "on occasion" but would like to also have "concerts that more people would be enthusiastic about attending." Elizabeth also suggests that "someone is lacking in responsibility" in not utilizing the \$75 student activity fee for the good of the students.

Janet Morrison would like more parties and dances so that the day students and boarders could get to know each other better. Marty Vann says that a party a month would give everyone something to look forward to. She adds, "Make sure that plenty of boys are there."

Nancy Sharpe deplors the lack of gymnasium equipment, which forces girls to give up sports they have previously enjoyed. Banta Newell agrees, and suggests teams of softball and field hockey, and gymnastics. Jean Carrington would like to have the gym open longer for friends and dates.

Sheri Wilkie objects to the Student Union being used only for TV in the evenings and would like to have stereo music there at night "so that we could bring friends and dates and meet new people." Maybe Sheri would like to start a group to get some use

out of our big shiny juke box! Katie Cobb suggests longer hours for the Snack Bar, pointing out that it is open now only when people are in class. Katie asks, "Why not keep it open at night?" Music, food - sounds good, doesn't it!

Rachel Jones suggests that those "fattening study breaks" at night be turned into get-togethers in lower Smedes, on Monday night for example. She thinks this would be great for boarders and day students both. One of her delicious suggestions is for do-it-yourself banana splits!

Leigh Duke also favors more occasions for students to get together for fun, and Caren Akin thinks that games and picnics would help overcome "that small dividing line between day student and boarder." Elizabeth Rouse wants picnics, games, and bands on campus for "bright sunny Saturday afternoons," because more weekend activities are needed, to bring and keep students on campus.

Hillary Thompson advocates more clubs, especially an "outside entertainment club" which would find things of interest to students in town (concerts, games, movies) and provide transportation and information for groups wanting to attend. Hillary adds that the student activities fee should be used for student activities only!

There are some very good ideas here, and we hope that concerned people will respond to them. If you like these ideas or have other suggestions, drop them in the Belles Box and we will use them in the next issue.

Suggestions For Future SMC Activities

by Carter Warren

St. Mary's has so much to offer in most aspects of college life but one area that seems to need improvement is student activities. St. Mary's is lucky enough to have a gorgeous gymnasium, and Student Union both of which could be put to more constructive use. However, I do not feel that it's really the use of the buildings that would make a difference in our lives at St. Mary's as much as some organized social functions that would provide the students with an outlet to meet other people, as well as provide entertainment on the weekends. It is true that SM is in a position different from that of other campus' because alcoholic beverages are prohibited on campus:

However, this rule and others are what make SM the unique place that it is. I feel that these rules don't need to be changed but that instead activities need to be planned

around them that will let every one enjoy themselves, on campus within the rules of St. Mary's.

The first thing that needs to be realized is that \$75 of every student's tuition is set aside for student activities and therefore is put in the "working fund" of St. Mary's.

The money is there for the students to use if they only request it. If used, this money would permit students to sponsor mixers, bands, etc. on campus on the weekends.

The counselors in Smedes are working on some ideas for a mixer for the high school students. Several ideas have been brought to us. First, it has been suggested that a list of boys from Raleigh be compiled by the Raleigh girls and these boys be invited to a mixer in the cafe. This would provide the high school girls a way to meet some Raleigh boys and it might lead to some more activities in the future.

Perhaps music could be provided by a "memory bank", a type of tape system which is relatively inexpensive. It has also been suggested that we have a mixer with Ravenscroft or one of the private schools in the area. I feel that there is bound to be some way that social functions can be put on at St. Mary's that are fun. What is needed is your suggestions on what you would like to see put on at St. Mary's.

Ideas have also been made for the College as well as the college and high school combined. The seniors have toyed with the idea of a Spring week. Perhaps that could be worked out. Also, in the spring it may be possible to have an informal dance on the patio outside of the cafe. There could be an afternoon bar-b-que behind Smedes with a band.

All that is needed to make a fun place to spend a weekend is some good ideas and a little organization. If you have any ideas concerning this please put them in the Belles suggestion box, we need everyone's help to get things together and make St. Mary's even a better place than it is now.

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ENDS

(Continued from Page 1)

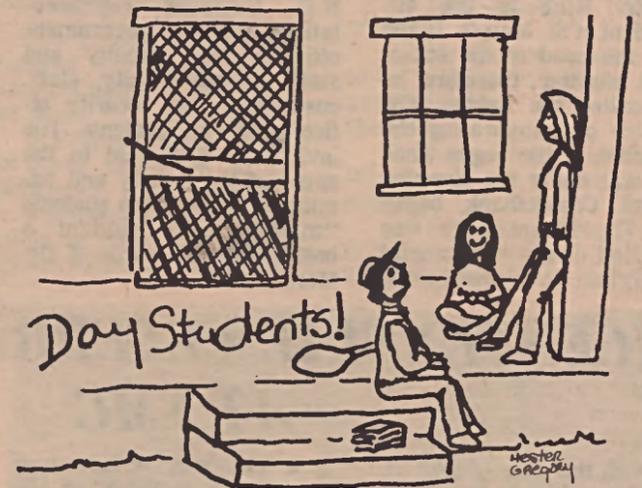
tries on culture in America. The projects were provided by German, Spanish and French students.

Political Science students staged a Mock convention under the direction of Mr. Roberts. A chapel program featured the contributions of blacks in sacred music and preaching.

Another part of the Bicentennial program dealt with the beautification of the campus. The Chapel was painted, a historic monument

was erected and paintings in Smedes were restored in carrying out this part of the program. Also, students helped with a campus wide cleanup day to keep things looking pretty.

This fall the Bicentennial program continued with various assembly programs, and the dedication of a plaque which identified the Memorial Oak Tree planted last spring. Historic walking tours of the campus allowed others to enjoy the beauty of St. Mary's during the Bicentennial year. All in all, it was a very good celebration at St. Mary's.



by Mary M. Deekens

Those ever active Day Students are at it again! Now we're planning a bottle drive to raise money to give a party for the boarders. Delia McGee, Brenda Forrest, and Gail Gaskins are in charge of the drive to be held, Sat., Jan. 29. We haven't decided what kind of party we're going to give yet, but it'll be lots of fun. Any Day Student with ideas turn them in to Bobi. If additional money is needed for the party we plan to have a

bake sale under the guidance of Rachel Jones and Katie Zevenhuisen. These proposals were discussed at the meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 18 at 10:30. From now on we will be meeting every other Tuesday at 10:30. So, get out of bed girls and come! Roll will be taken and absentees will be campused! Also, any Day Student who shivered through the recent heatless spell in the house can rest assured that the heat has been fixed, but don't touch that dial!!!

