

EDITOR'S NOTES

In a couple of months I will be a St. Mary's alumna. Since I have been here, I have heard rumblings about our chapel "system." Looking back through old issues of the BELLES, I found several differing opinions concerning compulsory chapel service. Interestingly enough, the arguments are identical to those being voiced by St. Mary's students 12 years later. Same scene, same curtain, same stage, but a different time setting. I must quote a letter written to the editor in the February 5, 1971 issue by Cynthia Broadway . . . "I now feel that we have reached a point in our lives where we've faced with such a decision and I feel that we are old enough and hopefully mature enough to make the right decision (on non-compulsory chapel) I pray that each girl will make the right decision for herself and will learn to love the chapel and to love God and reach out to Him. And I only hope we will be given this opportunity to find God and ourselves through voluntary means . . ."

Ellen Smith, in another letter to the editor, wrote: "I think the time has come to do away with our compulsory chapel policy. I am firmly convinced that a voluntary chapel attendance policy would enhance and improve the atmosphere of worship at St. Mary's." Rebekah Gunn, from the department of English wrote, "that St. Mary's Junior College is faced with what can be a stirring religious revival — or a tempest in a teapot."

Although these letters are over a decade old, they voice the very same opinions of many SMC girls today. A poem written by Polly Bonner in the same issue reads:

". . . but go ahead and vote
for no church at all
and watch St. Mary's
begin to fall . . ."

One can assume that by "fall" she was referring to the traditions of this institution. Ruth Brown wrote:

". . . is it not human

for the restrained
to break the ties
of tradition and
live according to the laws
they can believe in?"

Betty Ann Queen, praising St. Mary's tradition, wrote ". . . and as we go through our separate lives look back on her, and her "little chapel" with a warm feeling in our hearts."

I don't believe chapel should be done away with. Neither do 56 percent of the students polled last Tuesday. However, to merely close the door on this unrest will not solve the problem. The 43 percent that did not wish to have compulsory chapel will still remain unsatisfied. Consider also, the large number of girls not polled. This large number could have pulled the majority to the other side.

I think we need to concern ourselves with the quality of the chapel services. Talking, giggling, are not my ideas of a chapel service. We are all guilty of not taking Tuesday services seriously enough. I have heard many complaints about the repetitive nature of the services. Perhaps ideas could be given to Rev. Dillard. As long as I have known him, he as long as I have known him, he has been a man open to suggestions. I think chapels are too informal and this leads to an informal attitude among the students which in turn depreciates the entire service. The only part of the service I truly enjoy is when Rev. Dillard says "let us pray." And there's silence, and I can think.

The only way to improve our Tuesday chapels is to get involved. Let's pay attention. Let's be courteous. Let's spend the one hour a week with God. Let's offer suggestions, and not just complain. One good way to make our suggestions public is to write to the Belles. The Belles will publish our letters. If we really care, let's do something about it. Let's make chapel a place we want to be on Tuesday evenings.

MGB

RESOLVE TO GET INVOLVED

By Clayton Henkel

During my first year at St. Mary's, I was impressed by many things. The one characteristic that stood out the most, however, was the students' enthusiasm: everyone seemed to have that special St. Mary's spirit urging you to get involved. Whether through clubs, sports, or extra-curricular activities everyone had the chance to participate and make new friends.

This year however things are different. Students seem to only have time to complain: "My classes are too hard!", "My teachers are so mean!", and "They give so much more homework than last year!" It's these responses that get students in an apathetic mood, to the point they feel they don't have time to get involved. But the funny thing is they don't study any harder with their spare time — they watch more TV to keep up with "Dynasty" and Carolina in the A.C.C.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Is there a more discussed item here at school (other than G.H.) than the meals served in the dining hall? Probably not — it is one topic on which all the boarders are well informed. But rather than mere complaints, I have a suggestion which may help those of us who tend to gain weight here (You have heard of the "Freshman Forty," haven't you?) and would probably benefit the dining hall as well.

My suggestion is that they simply serve smaller portions. There are several reasons, the most personal of which is that it is easier to not go back for seconds than it is to not eat but half of what is on your plate. And of course, if you do want more, you can go back. Think about it, dieters. You eat the portion you have separated out of the too large serving you are given. Then, as you talk to your friends after the meal, the rest, which does not belong in your

ratings. ("All My Children" is a necessity though).

Since when has a night-time soap opera or a basketball game to a school we don't even attend, become more important than going to a walk or one of St. Mary's own sporting events?

At the last walk, I had never seen such a low turnout. Where were the WATS to lead the resounding cheers that can be heard across campus '0 And where were all the super sophomores or the juniors who were in these clubs the year before? There were more freshmen than anyone else. Perhaps this was because they were curious, having never been to one before. But they were there, cheering on enthusiastically.

As for the sports at St. Mary's, not many people attend those games either. Even if you are simply not interested in athletics, it doesn't take much effort to wish someone on the

team "good luck." This small gesture can really raise one's spirits.

So during this semester, while the weather's bad, and there's nothing to do, and no vacation in sight — start participating. Resolve to get involved in 1983 and put the spirit back into St. Mary's that we're known for.

CAREER CORNER

By Jane Pettit

If you like working with people and have a flair for fashion then a career as a fashion coordinator may be for you. Clothing store chains such as Montaldo's, Ivey's and Belk's employ a fashion coordinator who organizes fashion shows as well as other special events. In the case of large chains such as Belk's and Ivey's, a coordinator is needed for each region. One may be assigned a particular branch, several cities or even on entire state. Ms. Beth Blackwell is the fashion coordinator for the Belk's stores in the Charlotte area. She is a graduate of Columbia College where she designed her own course of study. Ms. Blackwell's major included courses in fashion merchandising, marketing, and business management.

At Belk's, Ms. Blackwell has a schedule that keeps her busy everyday of the week and on some weekends. She travels to cities surrounding Charlotte and often finds herself catching a flight to New York. Beth Blackwell says, "that although her job is demanding, she enjoys the excitement and the fact that it changes everyday."

Several times a year she is busy planning fashion shows for the Teen Board, the Bridal Department and the Serenades to Autumn show that goes on tour. Each summer, Beth gets busy hiring models, reviewing fall fashions, and planning a presentation that tours through several states. She has the opportunity of meeting famous designers who are invited to show their collections as well as other celebrities. The Serenade to Autumn Fashion Show is the event that truly exhibits Beth Blackwell's talents as a Fashion Coordinator. Her Taste, eye for color, ability to work well with people and professional attitude are expressed in her work.

These qualities are relied on by her employer since much of the Belk's advertising is directed from the Fashion Coordinator's department. If Beth Blackwell's career as Belk's Fashion Coordinator sounds interesting to you consider your plans for the future. If you are looking for a job that will challenge your creativity, and mind for business, you may have found it. The job is tough and not as glamorous as it appears to be. However, the exposure you can receive in numerous experiences will be worth your time and effort.

Sincerely,
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