



VOLUME XLIV, NUMBER 4

The Belles

900 HILLSBOROUGH STREET,
ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, RALEIGH, N.C.

of
St. Mary's
College

FEBRUARY 1985

Important SGA Elections to be coming up

by Sara Dowling

The time is here at St. Mary's to start thinking about the SGA elections which will be held in mid-February. St. Mary's Student Government is unique because every student is a member. As the election draws nearer, it is important that students understand the lengthy process by which their leaders are elected.

First, the president of SGA selects a nominating committee composed of a representative group from all classes and one or more day students. The president of SGA is the chairman of the committee, but she has no vote. The President of the College and the Dean of Students must approve each nominee. Also, each nomination must have three signatures from the committee.

The nominating committee is given a list of eligible students who have at least a 2.5 QPA from which they select nominees. The committee meets frequently until they have selected two nominees and one alternate for each of the nine SGA offices. Each outgoing SGA officer abstains from voting when her successor is being nominated.

Nominees may accept or decline within 24 hours. The candidates make speeches in front of the student body at assemblies. The process takes about three weeks. Students run on three different slates, one each week. The first slate is the President and the Chairman of the Judicial Board. The second slate is for Vice-President and Vice-Chairman of Judicial Board, and the third is for Secretary-Treasurer, Chairman of Hall Council, Underclassman Vice-President, and Social Chairman. If a person loses on one slate, that person may be nominated again for another office. Candidates are required to get to know students by being in the dining hall on the day of their speeches so students can have a chance to talk to them. Each night after the speeches students vote for that particular slate. The winners are announced the following Wednesday morning in chapel.

The President of SGA has many jobs. She meets with Dean Jones and President Rice individually. She also meets with the Chairman of Judicial Board, President Rice, Dean Jones, and Pia Price to discuss all Judicial Board cases dealing with suspension or expulsion. The President of SGA is also a member of the Legislative body, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, a non-voting member of the Board of Trustees, on the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and a member of Hall Council. She is also on the Committee to appoint Counselors and in charge of orientation for new students. She attends functions off campus to represent St. Mary's.

The Vice-President of SGA performs duties in the absence of the President. She is Chairman of the Legislative Body, a member of Hall Council, and on the Committee to Appoint Counselors. The Vice-President is the student body representative to Academic Council, co-Chairman of Orientation, and she aids the Secretary-Treasurer in elections. She is also in charge of administering the handbook test to all students in the fall.

The Chairman of Judicial Board also has many responsibilities. She is in charge gathering information and evidence from all sources or appointing someone to do so, and drawing up a preferential slate for Judicial Board members to select the replacement for the faculty member rotating off. She is Chairman of Honor Week, and she appoints two counselors to Judicial Board. The Chairman of Judicial Board is also a member of Hall Council, and on the Committee to Appoint Counselors; and she aids in elections.

The Vice-Chairman of Judicial Board also has specific duties. She keeps a record of the minutes, and after each case prepares reports of the work of J-Board and submits copies to appropriate staff, the master file, and the SGA bulletin board. Other responsibilities include submitting an annual summary of J-Board cases to the President of the College and Dean of Students at the end of each semester, notifying students and teachers of suspension and expulsion decisions, and keeping the master file in order. The Vice-Chairman also aids the Chairman of J-Board in any way possible.

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A CURE FOR PROCRASTINATION

by Shannon Taylor

All students procrastinate throughout the year. Most students do not start on papers or reports till the last minute because they do not want to do the research and difficult writing that it involves. Now St. Mary's has a solution for this: The Writing Center.

The Writing Center was developed to help students with their difficult writing tasks or even their personal writing. The Center's hours have expanded from those of last semester. Now the Center is open on Monday 10-11, 12-1, 3-4; Tuesday 9-11, 12-3; Wednesday 10-11, 12-1; Thursday 10-12, 1-3; and Friday 10-11, 12-1. Other times are available by appointments so that everyone has a chance to make use of the Center. Not only have the hours expanded, but also Dr. Bart Rollins has joined Dr. Charlotte Jones in working with students. Faculty members are indirectly working with the Center by giving Dr. Jones and Dr. Rollins lists of the assignments they have given to their students which are filed and kept on hand right in the Writing Center. The faculty is very enthusiastic about the great job the Writing Center has been doing in aiding students. Any student can seek help in any subject. It is strictly a one-on-one basis where students can obtain good, constructive criticism and help without worrying about grades or negative reactions from a professor. There is no grade or stigma - just personal help. The Writing Center has aids for improving skills in any area. There are video cassettes on writing, grammar drills (which may incidentally help with work in foreign languages), suggestions for college applications, transfers, summer job applications, resumes, and even personal writing that gives pleasure. In addition, students can find help with a

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THE MYSTERY AND THE ANSWERS

by Shannon Taylor

During the week of January 14-18, many students were perplexed over the true meaning of the mysterious "Muse Week". The mystery has been solved. Muse Week is St. Mary's College Literary Festival which is held in January of every year. Now in its fourth year, Muse Week was created by Anna Wooten-Hawkins, advisor to the Muse. This year we had three very talented literary people come to speak at St. Mary's. These included Peter Makuck, David Payne, and Shirley Moody.

Poet Peter Makuck read poems on Monday evening, January 14, in Smedes Parlour. Peter Makuck, Associate Professor of English at East Carolina University, is also Director of the East Carolina University Poetry Forum and editor of the Tar River Review. A former Fulbright Lecturer, Makuck has taught at a French university and speaks fluent French. In 1981 a collection of his short stories, *BREAKING AND ENTERING*, was published by the University of Illinois Press. A year later a volume of his poems, *WERE WE LIVE*, was published. Makuck is currently teaching American Literature at East Carolina University.

Novelist David Payne read from his first novel, *CONFESSIONS OF A TAOIST ON WALL STREET*, on Tuesday evening,

January 15, in Ragland Auditorium. The novel, which is being translated into six languages, was published by Houghton-Mifflin, in October of 1984. Payne was awarded a Houghton-Mifflin Literary Fellowship for his tour de force. His full-time job is writing, therefore he is living entirely on his income from writing in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Not only does Payne write novels, he is also a talented poet and won an Academy of American Poets Award in 1976.

Shirley Moody, a Raleigh area poet, read her work on Wednesday, January 16, in Smedes Parlour. Her book, *FOUR NORTH CAROLINA WOMEN POETS*, was published by St. Andrews Press in Lauringburg, North Carolina. It represents Mrs. Moody's poems, and also includes the poetry of three other poets. Mrs. Moody has completed 150 residencies as a Poet-in-the-North Carolina-Schools since 1978.

Not only were readings held but also dinners for David Payne and Peter Makuck on the evening of their readings in the small dining hall of the cafeteria. More than half of those attending the dinners were students. Some of the students also enjoyed an hour of conversation with David Payne after his reading on Tuesday night.



Mrs. Shirley Moody

Raleigh Native Speaks During Muse Week

Muse Week for many students was not only a week of readings but of self-expression and discovery. During Muse Week, St. Mary's was very fortunate to have a Raleigh native poet, Mrs. Shirley Moody, to speak and teach classes. Mrs. Moody has been a published poet for seven years now. She is a Peace College and an NC State graduate. In addition she attended the NC Writers Conference and also studied with Sam Ragan and Betty Adcock, other renowned figures in the literary world. On Wednesday night, January 16, she read from her book, *Four North Carolina Women Poets*, which was published in 1982. Not only did she read her work here, but she also taught classes. Mrs. Moody has been doing residencies since 1978 across the state of North Carolina. She has completed 135 residencies so far, teaching in both private and public schools. For a few days during Muse Week she taught six classes a day, combining some of the classes. She taught poetry writing in the classes of Marcia Jones, John Tate, Bart Rollins, Tom Bauso, and Maggie O'Shaughnessey. Many students tried their hand at composing poetry. Students wrote every day during class. Mrs. Moody had certain topics which every class wrote on: objects, feelings, silence, and "other eyes". Students found writing about the objects the most interesting of all. Some examples of the objects that were given to students were a cow's skull, a rattlesnake skin, shelf lichens, deer antlers, fossilized rock, and a geode just to name a few. During this week, everyone gained an appreciation for how difficult writing is even for professional writers, but at the same time how rewarding self-expression can be. Poetry appeals to the five senses, and poets turn these senses into images to try to make readers share their experience. Students who were interviewed about their classes were all surprised that they could write poetry with this guided direction. Students stated, "It brought out abilities I did not know about." One student who did not believe she could write at all said the class "helped drag the creativity out of me." She was really surprised and pleased. Maybe one of St. Mary's students from the poetry classes will turn out to be a famous poet too.