



The Belles

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GOODBYE PRESIDENT RICE

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On a beautiful clear Carolina day in March of 1976, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Rice arrived in Raleigh, N.C., with the expectations of visiting Saint Mary's College. However, that visit turned into a ten-year residency. Thus on May 10, 1976, John T. Rice accepted the job as Saint Mary's fifth President. From that day forth Rice became not only a President, but a friend and confident to all the administrators, faculty, and students.

Saint Mary's welcomed President Rice with a capital

debt of \$1,380,000.00, deteriorating grounds, and a large amount of much needed reconstruction to several dorms. President Rice and his administration liquidated this debt in June of 1983 — seven years ahead of schedule. West Rock, Cruikshank, and Holt dormitories all were renovated. The student living areas of Smedes were renovated in 1980 (after \$1.2 million was raised.) Not only did Rice get rid of this enormous debt, but he also increased the college's endowment from \$800,000.00 in 1976, to \$3,500,000.00 in 1985. The annual Fund has been increased 133 percent in

the past ten years. The list goes on.

How did we get such a super-hero president? "I can't take credit for all the progress," says Rice, "it just couldn't have been done without the help of Henry (Read), Bud Conrad, and the rest of the administrative staff."

Although Rice won't take any personal credit, his accomplishments are evident in every aspect of the Saint Mary's way of life. There is a certain air experienced when walking around the campus: feeling of pride, confidence, and affection. This feeling is something one can only ex-

perience by being a part of Saint Mary's. Anyone who has heard President Rice speak in assembly about Christmas or how to handle the Winter Time Blues understands what SMC is all about. President Rice has portrayed a father figure for us all by giving us the courage we need to act as leaders and as followers.

Unfortunately, the Rice's will be leaving Saint Mary's on June 30, 1986, and returning to Virginia. It is noted on record that Rice has intended to act as president for only ten years. However, it still came as a shock to us all when he announced his resignation.

When asked why he is leaving, Rice stated, "I love Saint Mary's. People are afraid to ask me about it because they know that I will talk for hours. When I'm old and grey, sitting on the front porch of my mountain cabin, I will look back to these past ten years (here at Saint Mary's) as the best years of my life. Yet I feel that I have met the tasks I was asked to complete. I think I still have a lot more to give to Saint Mary's, but career-wise this is what is best for me and for the college."

Rice will begin his new job as Executive Director of Col-