



The Belles

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May Court

By Elizabeth Stephenson

May Court is the focal point of Spring Fest. On the Friday of Spring Fest, parents can attend abbreviated classes, as they did during parents weekend. Then parents will have the opportunity to dine in the cafeteria with their student. The parents and students will be able to enjoy performances by the Chorale and Ensemble, followed by the Sea Saints. Finally, the May Court is presented. They will be escorted by their pages to the front steps of Smedes. Then the dance clubs will dance before the Court.

Not everyone is eligible for May Court. You must be elected by the student body and have a grade point average of at least 2.0 or better. Seven college sophomores are chosen, and the one with the most votes is declared the May Court Queen. Four freshman, three seniors, and two eleventh graders are also elected to the court. The senior with the most votes is the Maid of Honor. Next year an additional tenth grader will be eligible for the May Court.

The first known May Queen of Saint Mary's was chosen in 1856. Then May Day was celebrated with an elegant supper and a dance in West Rock that lasted until 9:00 p.m. May Day was honored each year, but did not become a custom until the 1920's. Soon after, it became known as Spring Fest; unfortunately the Depression caused a suspension of Spring Fest until 1935.

When it resumed, the court and queen wore Grecian costumes. After 1937, the May Court wore traditional long pastel dresses and the queen was gowned in white. The presentation of May Court on alumnae day began in 1961.

In 1894, the great-great aunt of Ginny Dickens, Katie McKimmon, taught American History at Saint Mary's. The seniors apparently liked her so much that they crowned her May Queen.

The May Court for this Spring is as follows:

Sophomores: Queen: Deedee Greene, Miriam Mason, Ginny Dickens, Sallie Thorpe, Elizabeth Allen, Scott Cole, Tracy Morgan.

Freshmen: Anna Underwood, Heather Moore, Anna Tighman, Lizzie Bull.

Seniors: Maid of Honor: Catherine Scott, Melissa Elliotte, Travis Brady.

Juniors: Katherine Taft, Cammie Bason.

Last spring, it was evident to many that the Honor Code at Saint Mary's was not working. There were many incidents of cheating, one of which was cheating on a final Latin exam. In this Latin class, there were 15 out of 18 people found guilty of cheating. For these reasons, several changes have been made. The exam scheduling has been changed so that a teacher only has one exam scheduled at a time. The faculty also decided to change the Honor Code.

This year the pledge reads, "I pledge that I have neither given nor received help on this test." In the past the pledge included that a student had not seen an-

other give or get help on the test that she had pledged. This year's trial policy does not penalize a student for not turning a cheater in, but encourages a cheater to turn herself in. Dr. Jenkins said that in the past there had been "no action from students." The reason for this change was to encourage students to be responsible for themselves.

Dr. Jenkins would like to make clear that a student still has an obligation to turn a cheater in. By signing the oath in Honor Chapel, a student pledges that she will "uphold the highest standard of personal integrity in every phase of life at Saint Mary's and recognize her responsi-

bility for helping others to live up to that standard."

Dr. Jenkins suggested that anyone who suspects someone cheating should talk to the girl about turning herself in. By turning herself in, she will have a lesser penalty than if it is someone else turns her in. If the student refuses to turn herself in, then she should be taken to the Judicial Board.

The Honor Code will only work if everyone obeys and believes in it. Every student should remember that she has an obligation to "uphold the highest standard of personal integrity." The Honor Code needs the support of every student.

A Different Life

By Atta Raouflan

"Always have a positive attitude," said my father when I left Germany to study in the United States of America.

This important advice can be very useful to international students during the process of adjustment which takes a long time and involves a lot of courage. The word "adjustment" itself seems to have a negative suggestion. The adjective hints that somebody has to accept a new situation and try to deal with all the problems which will occur.

On the SMC campus, sixteen foreign students, from countries like Japan, Malaysia, Kuwait, Bahamas, and Venezuela, have experienced situations that no American who has never left the United States can truly understand or imagine. For example, I found it very difficult to use the telephone in the United States because of the operators. Every time I had difficulties making a call, the operator started talking to me, which made me very nervous since it is not easy to communicate without seeing the other person. Mami Harada has shared my experience: "I was always scared to talk on the phone."

Another kind of difficulty for international students in using the telephone is the process of acquiring knowledge about certain techniques. For instance, I will never forget an event that happened last year. When I wanted to reserve some rooms in Williamsburg for the Atlas trip I found an ad saying: Call 1-800-history. Therefore, I picked up my pink telephone, dialed 1-800 and screamed "history" in the phone. Unfortunately, no one answered, except the annoying answering machine voice which tried to tell me that I did not complete my number. Finally, and to my embarrassment, a friend caught me screaming "history" and explained the process. Even today she still teases me about my naivete.

Of course, language problems also influence our daily lives. Most of the foreign students spend their free time studying because it takes them more time to comprehend the reading material. For example, an American student might read a chapter in a history book in about one hour, but for an international student, it can take from two to seven hours. And even then she will not have understood

the chapter fully.

An additional problem, the lack of vocabulary, causes international students to be scared, quiet, and even depressed. But as soon as somebody encourages us, and spends time trying to understand and to communicate with us, we are determined to try our best to have a positive attitude because we want to learn. At SMC the teachers and staff have been the ones who understand us, or at least take time to try to understand.

Finally, cultural differences often cause communication problems between American and International students. Tomomi Watanabe from Japan said, "I find it more difficult to accept the culture than the language. The people think different in America. Japanese understand each other without words, and I can always imagine what people think. Americans try to understand each other by talking, and you always have to say what you think if you want to express yourself. Of course, that is good sometimes, but it is not easy for me to adjust. I read many books to understand this culture, and though I mostly understand it, I am not ready to adjust to it."

I think that the international students would like for people to be open-minded about their cultures. It makes us happy when people show interest in our backgrounds, and often they learn things from us as well as we learn every day from the American people. "Ignorance" among cultures should be avoided because we can all get benefits from each other.

In conclusion, I want to mention some positive aspects of my years in the U.S.A. Since I have been here, I have learned to try my best and always to try to maintain a positive attitude, as my father advised me. Furthermore, I learned to accept people the way they are and appreciate their help. Moreover, the word "appreciation" plays a major role in my life even if I often do not show it enough. Naturally, I know how delicious my mother's food is, after all the junk food I eat here. Unfortunately, I have noticed that I become more homesick the longer I stay here, but I am determined to finish my education in this country. Lastly, I want to mention that I am very grateful to the teachers at his school because they have inspired me to try hard, and some have taken a lot of time for me so that I do not feel lonely.



Will Spring ever come to stay?