

Editorial Where Are They?

By Jenny Caine

If a strange man is following you what would you do, call the security guards? But where are they?

If you get locked out of the dorm, would you call the security guards? The question is, Would you be able to find them?

Lately, there have been reports of "strange" men lurking around campus. One individual reports a man staring in through the windows at the library for several minutes, until discovered. When the security guards were called, nobody answered the phone. Obviously, letting it ring about ten times was not enough, so this individual, while walking back to her dorm, saw a security guard, and told him of the "strange" man. Thirty minutes later the man was reported by another individual, but the security guards never got him.

The night of the Little Sister, Big Sister party in Tyler Lounge, where were the security guards spotted? One in Tyler Lounge, the other in Smedes Parlor, talking, laughing, having fun. Is this their job? I agree that everyone needs to have fun, but when there is a possibility of danger, they need to be at work. This "strange" man walking on campus seems like danger to me. In addition, there have been reports of a nude man chasing girls; this also seems like danger.

Don't get me wrong, the security guards are all nice. But they are here for protection, not to hang out with Saint Mary's girls!



It Doesn't Make Sense

Editors' Note: This letter was written for publication in the December issue of the *Belles*, but it was unintentionally omitted. We apologize. To help put the letter in context, we have included the editorial to which it is a response.

(Reprinted from November Issue)

By Kristie Hoffstedder

This year there will be no volleyball or soccer teams at SMC; instead there will be cross country. Did the school take into consideration the number of students that would be upset when volleyball and soccer were replaced with cross country? Volleyball got started last year when enough students banded together and formed a team. Obviously the students wanted to play volleyball. This year the school is claiming there is not sufficient interest to continue the sport. Did the school hold tryouts? Did the school take a survey? Or did the school ask returning players their opinions? Is it fair to make these returning players compete for one of the only four positions available on

cross country if they choose to continue in a varsity sport? Yet basketball still exist when last year's team had such little interest they could barely meet minimum requirements for a team status.

Soccer seems to show the most interest of all the sports available at SMC, but students will not be able to play soccer this year except for intramurals. Intramurals are welcomed by people who only want to play in their spare time, but returning players and new students want a team that is competitive. Students want soccer on a regular full-time basis to learn and perfect skills.

Teams provide unity among students and provide for self-discipline. The opinion of students should be the determining factor in keeping or dropping a sport regardless of what the sport is.

After all, it is the students who play and compete, not the administrators. The bottom line is students want volleyball and soccer.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to the article "It Doesn't Make Sense" in the November, 1988 issue of the *Belles* regarding the athletic department.

I have coached and taught at Saint Mary's for 28 years and through the years, I have seen only three teams stand the test of time -- basketball, swimming and tennis. Other team sports that have been attempted have folded due to lack of student interest. We do not measure the success of our teams by their won-lost record, but by the level of student participation.

We must have four teams to keep our membership in the N.C. Independent Athletic Association, which is our only source of competition with high schools throughout the state. Careful thought and evaluation has been put into making the best choices of teams that are compatible with student interest, facilities available, staff and other resources.

Golf was attempted many years ago at Saint Mary's, but student participation was low. I am sure the interest was hard for students to keep when we were always trying to find a course to play on.

For several years we had a soccer team, although we were fighting every imaginable obstacle. Our field is not regulation size; therefore, daily practice conditions differed from the conditions used in competition. Because our field was not regulation all games had to be played away from Saint Mary's, which meant that the student body could not support the team properly. Teams need the support of the student body to be successful. The amount of travel involved in playing a full schedule on the road imposed academic hardship on the student-athletes due to the amount of classes missed. Also, in the past years when soccer games interfered with other plans of team members, the team members would often choose not to honor their commitment to their teammates and coach.

In an effort to meet student interest in soccer, however, it will be offered in the spring as an intramural-extramural program.

Volleyball was attempted last year on a trial basis. We had high hopes for its success with the students. However, we had only nine girls -- the bare minimum -- to count on for the team. We were also required to find two officials for every home game, and currently there is a shortage of trained officials in the Raleigh area to meet the demand of schools. When volleyball was offered as an intra-

mural program in the fall this year, no one came out for it. Due to apparent lack of interest, it was decided that the commitment of resources required for a team sport would be better used on a sport not so dependent on the number of students participating.

I am pleased to be able to report, however, that volleyball will be offered again as a team sport for 1989-90. Once again, we hope the student interest and support for this program next year will make this a successful addition to our athletic program.

Why crosscountry? Crosscountry is not dependent on a required number of team members. Therefore, we can field a team with as few as one member, or accommodate as many as want to participate. All high school students had the opportunity to participate on the crosscountry team this year. Participation was open to anyone who was interested and, indeed, two students found success in competition in crosscountry this year.

Why basketball? Over the course of the years the basketball team has been one of the most successful in terms of student participation. This year's team of approximately a dozen players, an ample number, played with spirit and enthusiasm and are to be congratulated for their attitude, sportsmanship, and improvement over the course of the season.

Similarly, swimming has been successful at Saint Mary's over the years, and this year's team was no exception. This year's swim team is also to be congratulated on their effort and success.

One alternative would be to run our program similar to the one at Duke. If students wanted a team, it would first be a club. It would initially be managed and funded by students. Students would pay for their meals, travel, expenses, etc. After two to three years the athletic department would review it and if the results were favorable, it could become a part of the regular program.

High School Science Project: What For?

By Suzanne Quebedeaux

Saint Mary's high school science students have had to face a very difficult challenge this year. All high school science students were assigned a research project during departmental science Saturday. The term "research project" brings chills to many students' spines, but this project is worse than most. The student must first come up with her own topic to research. Then, the student must come up with a question pertaining to that topic. With that question in mind, the student must design an experiment with a detailed test plan in order to answer the question. One problem with the experiment is that it is difficult to distinguish between an experiment and a demonstration. The student has to be a genius to develop a unique experiment. The logical thing to do is ask the instructor for help. The only problem with this is that the teachers are not allowed to help the students. Their philosophy seems to be, "it's your project, it's not our problem." When this project was assigned, a schedule of due dates and a list of minimum sources was handed out to the students. Unfortunately, those were the only guidelines the students received. I understand the goal of Saint Mary's is to help prepare students for college and responsibility, but even in college, you can usually get some kind of guidance when you need it. I fail to see the necessity of such a project unless the student can obtain help in order to ensure themselves that a good grade can be achieved.

Voting Is Important

Since student government elections are presently under-way, all students should take the time to consider their choices for the various offices, and most of all -- take the time to cast their ballots! Voting is important for several reasons. It is a peaceful, democratic way to ensure that you, as a Saint Mary's citizen, will have a representative "say-so" in both policies and programs. Students should vote for those whom they feel will get things accomplished and who share similar interests and priorities. It is a regretful, but altogether too common, state of affairs that citizens often cast aspersions on those in power, without ever having pulled the lever. The old cliché "put your money where your mouth is" rings true. Secondly, voting is important because, as a member of the student body of Saint Mary's, it is your right, privilege, and therefore your duty to vote. If nobody voted, the election would actually be fraudulent. The entire democratic process depends on everyone exercising his or her "inalienable" right. So, remember, my fellow citizens of Saint Mary's, ponder the issues, render careful decisions, and VOTE!

We have always tried to achieve our primary goal of meeting the needs of our students based on their interest and support, as well as considering the resources, staff and facilities available. We try to offer something for everyone through the teams, dance clubs, Sea Saints, intramurals, open use of our various facilities, and a full schedule of physical education classes. We need the students' interest, support, school spirit, commitment to their teams, and respect for the coaches. Working together, we can improve our program to help our students reach what they each aspire to achieve.

My wish for every student at Saint Mary's is that she find her niche in our offered programs (aquatics, dance, team of individual sports) and that through participation in classes, intramurals, or varsity programs, she may learn the true meaning of the saying, "Doing your best is more important than being the best."

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