

FROM WHOM THE BELLES TOLL

THE HONOR CODE WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In the world outside Saint Mary's there are codes by which people in society are expected to abide. The laws that govern us are there to protect us from behaviors that could be harmful and destructive. Speed limits are not posted to keep people from reaching their destination as quickly as possible; they are posted because experience has proven that certain road conditions, such as congestion and narrow pavement, can lead to accidents if speeds are excessive. Traffic lights are not placed at intersections just to annoy travelers; they are there to control vehicles coming from different directions.

Students coming to Saint Mary's arrive at different speeds from many different directions. That is why it is necessary to have a simple code that everyone - administration, faculty, staff, and students - is expected to adhere to. And it is a very simple code: we do not lie, cheat, steal, plagiarize, or disobey the rules of the school. The Honor Code states, "With a clear understanding of all that the Honor Code implies, I pledge that I will uphold the highest standard of personal integrity in every phase of life at Saint Mary's, and I recognize and accept my responsibility for helping others to live up to that standard."

We have all understood that we as individuals have a responsibility to ourselves, but what about the people around us? What about the part of the Honor Code which reads, "I recognize and accept my responsibility for helping others to live up to that standard?" Does that mean one has to snitch on the least little rule infraction and gain a reputation as a narc? No it does not! It means that in a self-governing community like Saint Mary's we should not tolerate behavior in others that we would not tolerate in ourselves. Is it enough that one does not personally lie, cheat or steal, but if someone else wants to, then that is her problem? No, that is not just her problem. It is mine, yours, and any other person who is aware that such activity is occurring. We cannot pledge to uphold an honor system and end up condoning behavior because we choose to look the other way. That is not how the system works!.

Pretending not to see a problem does not erase the problem. If students think they can get away with anything because NOBODY will do anything, then the system does not work. If students KNOW that their actions are being monitored by ALL of their peers then they are going to be more inclined to stay within the parameters of the code. Hopefully they will then begin to understand the value of the code and weave it more thoroughly into their own lives. Personal integrity takes on a new meaning and the students can leave Saint Mary's headed in the right direction at a speed well within the limit.

Book Store Blues

By Danielle Little
High School Editor

Signs are posted all over campus that read, cash for BOOKS. Today, I lugged a backpack overflowing with books up the stairs and into the bookstore. I had been warned all year that I would receive only a small portion of the price I paid for the books. Still, I was excited about selling my books back for some quick cash. I placed a stack of books on the counter, an average of \$450 worth. The clerk looked at me and said, "I have some bad news for you." The bad news was that of my four textbooks, only one would be used next year. Therefore, the bookstore would only purchase one textbook from me.

In addition to that disappointment, I was appalled to learn that books for which I paid an unreasonable twenty dollars, I would be refunded only two dollars each. If I was lucky, paperback books which cost up to ten dollars in our bookstore were sold back for a measly quarter or fifty cents. This small refund is disappointing, when the paperback books were initially overpriced. Paperback books in the SMC bookstore can be found in other bookstores for a fraction of the SMC price. The bookstore defaces the

suggested prices, which are printed on the books themselves, and charges outrageous prices on the books.

I was also angered by the fact that this cycle will continue. Next year, the store will sell the used books for at least double the price of the refund price. It is a conspiracy. I paid a good six hundred dollars on books this year, and was refunded a mere thirty dollars. That is a conspiracy!!

Where is that money going? I wanted to know who was in charge of the college bookstore, and was not surprised to find out that the bookstore clerks are not employed by the college, and the store is not run by Saint Mary's. How can the scandalous bookstore rip off so many innocent students? *Because we feel like there is no other choice.*

I beg to disagree. There are other bookstores in the area, and I suggest that we all use them. The only way we can end this vicious cycle is to stand up for our rights as consumers. Why should we pay \$500 dollars for used books, when we can get identical ones for \$200?

My suggestion to you money conscious girls out there accept the challenge to buy and sell your books elsewhere.

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