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# Girl Cousins Are Valedictorians

By CONRAD PRANGE  
Staff Writer, The Statesman

Virginia and Elaine Nelke are both 17 and outstanding students. Each has been selected valedictorian of her graduation class.

Virginia, a petite blondish-brunette will deliver the valedictory address for Serra High School commencement May 31.

Her taller, dark-haired cousin, Elaine, is working on her valedictory speech to be delivered at Sacred Heart Academy commencement June 2.

### Three Months Apart

The girls were born in Salem three months apart (Virginia is the older). They attended the same elementary school but different high schools.

"We are good friends," smiles Virginia, "but our social lives are not exactly inseparable."

"We are different," says Elaine cheerfully.

Virginia is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nelke. Her family, including three sisters and four brothers live west of Salem at Route 1, Box 427.

### Parents Graduate

Elaine lives on the east edge of Salem at 5274 Center St. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nelke. Both parents graduated from Sacred Heart Academy. Her mother is the former Lorraine Bickler. Elaine has two sisters and three brothers.

Joe and Charles Nelke are brothers. Joe is employed as a mechanic at Kelley Farquhar & Co. food processing plant. Charles is employed at Capitol Floor Coverings.

At St. Joseph Parochial School, where honor students Elaine and Virginia graduated in 1965, both were members of the Girls Leaders Club. Elaine was president of the Leaders Club. Virginia was elected vice president of the seventh grade class and secretary of the eighth grade.

### Not Really Rivals

"We were not really rivals," recalls Virginia. "In fact, even though we were in the same grades we were not in the same classrooms."

Both attended Sacred Heart Academy as freshmen, but in her sophomore year Virginia transferred to Serra High.

Both girls have compiled enviable grade point records. Virginia's otherwise unblemished "straight A" record at Serra is ruffled by only one "B" each in her sophomore and junior year and two "B" grades so far this year.

At Sacred Heart, Elaine has so far compiled a perfect "straight A" record with the exception of a single "B-plus" in her junior year.

### What You Get Counts

"Grades are not so important, though," says Elaine. "It's what you get out of school that counts."

Both are active in school programs and Virginia is school correspondent for a local newspaper. Last year Elaine was correspondent. Elaine is president of Sacred Heart Honor Society.

Virginia, whose hobby is 4-H Club activities, plans to attend college and seek a career in veterinary medicine.

"I like farm life," she says. Elaine, whose spare time activities lean toward music and



**Runs in Family** Speaking cousins Elaine (left) and Virginia Nelke are in unique position of being named commencement valedictorian speakers at Salem's two Catholic high schools. Elaine compares notes on valedictory address she will deliver at Sacred Heart graduation on June 2, with cousin Virginia, who will give valedictory at Serra High School May 31. (Statesman Photo)

## Film About Cuban Refugees Barred

**MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)** — Somalia's censorship board said Saturday it had barred showing of a U.S. Information Service documentary film about Cuban refugees.

The board secretary said the film called "To Begin Again," was about thousands of Cubans fleeing their homeland and settling in the United States. He said it contained "propaganda against another state."

### HARRIS TO SPEAK

**EUGENE (AP)** — David Harris, who resigned Thursday as student body president at Stanford University because he felt unable to bring adequate changes there, will speak Monday evening at the University of Oregon. He will be member of a panel on "The Student Voice."

public speaking, plans to major in sociology in college.

What are chances for the case of the valedictory cousins to be repeated?

### Other Cousins Classmates

"Well," says Virginia, "my eighth-grade brother, Larry, is student body vice president at St. Joseph's School this year."

"And my eighth-grade sister, Jodie," chimes in Elaine, "has shown an interest in leadership activities at the same school."

So, Nelke family history may repeat itself in another four years.

## War, Peace Convocation Opens Today

**PORTLAND (AP)** — A four-part convocation on war and peace, part of the Lewis and Clark College centennial celebration, opens at the college Sunday evening with Sen. Wayne Morse, D-Ore., speaking on this country's foreign policy.

Monday night John Swomley of St. Paul's Theology School, Kansas City, will speak on the topic, "The Case Against Militarism."

Speakers in support of the administration's role in Vietnam will be Daniel Davidson, March 8 and the Rev. Daniel Lyons, S. J., March 28. Davidson is a State Department aide and Father Lyons is president of the Free Pacific Association, New York.

## Hero Title Awarded To Soviet Novelist

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Soviet novelist Mikhail A. Sholokhov, winner of the 1956 Nobel Prize for literature and member of the Communist party Central Committee — best known abroad as author of "And Quiet Flows the Don" — has been awarded his country's highest civilian title: Hero of Socialist Labor. The title also was bestowed on Konstantin Fedin, head of the writers' union, and five other writers.

### HEADS DADS CLUB

**CORVALLIS (AP)** — The Oregon State Dads Club Saturday elected Lee R. Hansen, Portland, President. Ralph Flisberg, Portland, was named vice president; Waldo Taylor, Portland, secretary and Les Copenhagan, Lake Oswego, treasurer.

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