

THE OBSERVER 5¢

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November 13, 1967



100 Deny War Effort At Gen. Johnson's Speech

More than 400 people gave General Harold K. Johnson, Army Chief of Staff, a standing ovation at the conclusion of his Library Auditorium speech Friday night. However, 100 others stood for a moment of silent protest after Senior Bill Reishman had read a statement terming the Vietnam War "a barbarous and unjust venture."

The protest, sponsored by the Notre Dame-St. Mary's Students for Peace, came at the conclusion of a speech which defended the U.S. presence and U.S. actions in Vietnam. Reishman's statement read in part "We call upon General Johnson, and the Administration he represents, to stop the bombing of North Vietnam immediately and begin preparations for the complete cessation of military operations."

The General appeared unshaken by the protest, remarking to the audience that U.S. soldiers in Vietnam are fighting to preserve the very right to dissent which the protesters had just exercised.

In his speech, General Johnson sought to answer questions about the reasons for and success of the U.S. involvement in South Vietnam. As to why we are there, he maintained "South Vietnam wants to remain free of communist tyranny and has asked us to assist. Our fighting men are helping them meet and destroy forces entering the country from outside its boundaries, thus assisting the South Vietnamese to curb the level of violence so that a duly constituted government can govern."

The Army Chief of Staff spoke of worldwide efforts by the Communists to subvert and destroy "the young, the settled, and the impoverished nations of the globe." As to Vietnam, he stated emphatically "The simple, unvarnished truth is that South Vietnam is under attack by forces organized and trained outside its boundaries. That is no civil war."

General Johnson was optimistic over the results of the United States in Vietnam, saying "We are making

progress on all fronts." As to the U.S. soldiers themselves, he was glowing in his praise. The American soldier, according to the General, "is a worker, a teacher, and a friend." As General Johnson sees it "The American soldier has helped build orphanages, schools and hospitals to alleviate the suffering of helpless people caught in the path of war."

Replying to the Hawks who ask "Why don't we just blast the enemy off the map?", General Johnson stated "We seek no wider war. We do not have a wider war. We do not seek the destruction of the North Vietnam regime." He stressed the limited scope of U.S. objectives in Vietnam, pointing on one hand to the spectre of nuclear war and on the other to the danger of "sitting idly by" while Communists take over a nation.

The General gave considerable time to tracing the history of U.S. containment policies in Asia, bearing down on rising Red threat. He spoke of the Communist takeover in China, the Korean War, and finally the Indochina war, stressing that, as a result of these events, "Our leaders were struck with the realization that just as the communist expansion had to be stopped in Europe it had to be stopped in the Far East—in Korea and South Vietnam."

General Johnson concluded with the idea that every generation of Americans must pay an "installment" in order to protect and defend freedom. He said "We are privileged to enjoy a freedom that has not been completely paid for and will never be paid for. We are buying it on the installment plan . . ."

As to United States soldiers in Vietnam, the General said, "Our brave young lads in South Vietnam are paying this generation's installment on freedom."

The Army Chief of Staff drew a crowd which overflowed the Library Auditorium, which seats but 300. General Johnson spoke for 40 minutes, answered questions for an additional 20, and then rushed to catch a plane.

Prof Affronts Hesburgh's Law Says Halls Are Floating Hotels

(Julian Haynes, professor of Biology, is a prefect in Keenan Hall. —ed.)

An open letter to the Notre Dame family:

After reading Father Hesburgh's comments to the student leaders as reported by The Observer, we feel that there are certain points which can not be ignored:

According to The Observer the President stated that he had no stomach for laws which don't mean anything and that the laws and rules which we have should be enforced. Surely he is aware that many halls on this campus openly and with the knowledge of the hall administration violate the official parietal hours and drinking regulations. If he is not aware of this, we are witnessing one of the snappiest snow jobs in history; he has only to visit one of several halls to observe one of our weekend floating hotels.

In regard to the university's rationale for not allowing women in the residential halls, the explanation is unbelievably ludicrous. The fact that "many university officials" regard the halls as a "men's club" is certainly their prerogative. However, in reality, these halls are the home for thousands of young men for nine months of the year. The residence halls are not a club or a retreat from every day life; they are the only facilities available for the students to entertain guests in relative privacy. If "social repercussions" occur as a result of entertaining a girl in a

university room, the fault does not rest with the liberal parietal hours but is a failure of parents, university and the Church to guide the moral and social development of the individuals involved.

The defense of the New York Times editorial must be criticized for several reasons. First, any individual who confuses Fr. John Cavanaugh with Fr. James Kavanaugh is so far out of contact with the problems of the contemporary Church that he does not require this form of an explanation. Secondly, it is difficult to believe that the president of any great and contemporary university could state that an invitation from the students was not an invitation from the university. If the students and the student government are not an integral part of the university, then the university does not and can not exist. We ask our president how a university can dissociate itself from its students

In conclusion, we must ask (albeit facetiously) what is "participation in a tension modulated by love"? To biologists aware of reproductive processes this sounds like a description of the "social repercussions" feared by the administration.

Julian F. Haynes
120 Keenan Hall

Ronald V. Baird
220 Keenan Hall

Armed Bandits Rob Four Students On St. Mary's Road

Four Notre Dame students were accosted at "gun-point" and robbed of about \$4.29, last night about 8:45 as they were returning to campus on the St. Mary's road.

Three Juniors, Bill Macke, Hal Smith, and Michael Hacher, all of 118 Alumni Hall, were followed by two "teenage hood types," from U.S. 31 as they returned from a Biology Club meeting at St. Mary's.

Just prior to reaching Holy Cross Cemetery, the shorter of the two grabbed Macke from behind and, pressing "something hard" into his side, said "This is a gun. Give me your wallets."

He then grabbed Macke's wallet, which was void of cash, and removed the card section. His companion took four dollars from Hacher's wallet and a Notre Dame coin purse containing \$.29 from Smith. The two- some then ordered the three to keep walking toward the campus and threw down the empty wallets.

Senate OK's Bookstore Probe

The Student Senate Thursday night voted to establish a committee to investigate the Bookstore. The committee, given an appropriation of \$50 to cover its expenses, will be headed by Sorin Senator Rick Storatz, original sponsor of the motion to investigate. Committee members will be chosen by Storatz, with membership open to all those interested.

The committee will investigate pricing in the Bookstore, make comparisons with other universities, and study the possibilities of a co-op bookstore. Storatz sees as likely a compromise, with sourenir prices remaining high while some form of reductions is worked out for the students. Any solution will be difficult, though, since according to Storatz the Bookstore makes close to \$500,000 a year.

The Storatz motion passed without dissent. The Sorin Senator gave a quick comparison of Bookstore prices with those in South Bend. He pointed out where Brother Conan charges prices far in excess of the suggested retail on some textbooks. There was no debate on the mo-

tion. It was approved almost immediately.

The Senate also completed consideration on the budget, with serious debate coming on only two sections. Storatz moved to delete the \$750 given to the International Students Organization out of the Student Affairs Budget.

Speaking in favor of the move, the Sorin Senator, originally a foreign student from Germany himself, said that the ISO encourages foreign students to form into cliques. Pointing to the \$50 party appropriation, he charged that what is just another regional club is being subsidized by Student Government. Mike Kendall supported Storatz, pointing to cliquishness among the foreign students in his hall.

Walsh Senator Pat Dowd replied to Storatz, pointing out that ISO already has activities

planned for the year. He pointed out that blanket elimination would even mean abolition of the International Coffee Hour. Stay Senator Rick Hunt maintained that Student Government gets \$650 for its annual banquet alone, comparing this to what ISO would get in a year.

The vote on the deletion was close, 24 to 19, but it failed. A move to delete the \$50 party authorization carried unanimously. In the only other money debate, the Senate voted a loan of \$100 to the Freshman Class in addition to its allotted budget.

The Observer is published three times a week during the college semester by the students of the University of Notre Dame. Subscription rate: \$5.00 per year, payable to The Observer, P.O. Box 11, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556.

Dear Student:

The 1968 Republican Mock Convention sponsored by the Notre Dame Academic Commission will be held from March 20 to March 24 in the Stepan Center. The conclave will afford the opportunity to experience the excitement of an actual convention.

The Delegation Committee is now in the process of selecting interested students to serve as state representatives. If you wish to be a delegate the bottom form must be filled out and mailed with a \$2.00 fee to Box 427, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana by November 14. Due to the demand that has been experienced in past years, it would be advisable to return your application immediately.

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School Address _____

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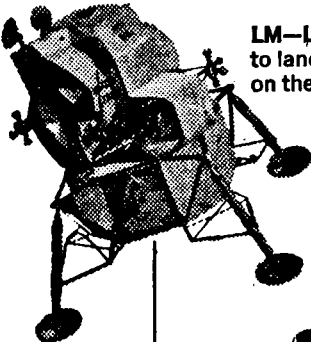
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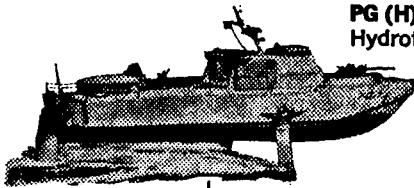
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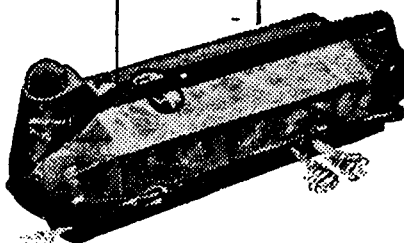
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Tom Figel

Fork in the Road



For years there were two roads taken by two different groups. One group, the truck drivers, milkmen, and laborers, took the road into khaki, dress whites, or the cockpit while the other group travelled with smug assurance through the college experience, graduate school, and into the fatherhood deferment.

But now the roads have run together and the Tom Figels, Tom McKennas, and Chris Murphys of the one path are faced with the decision of a Harvey Blue or a Josh Hanaker of the other. The situation has been delayed but it is finally the same: the army or Ft. Hood, resistance or compliance.

Many of us have had much to say about the army's purpose, about the psychic remaking of the men "over there"; but we've spoken with a II-S in our wallets and the opinions lacked that much force. It was easier to shout "We Won't Go" from within the vacuum than it would have been at the physical — or, at least, it had to seem that way. Next June the vacuum gives way to air and decisions we made or didn't make during four years have to be made for good.

No that we shouldn't have had our four years. The decision has to be a moral one and those who choose the army will have those four years to offer for a moral end. Those who stand by the opposite choice will finally have a voice which is heard and a degree which makes them a loss.

Much of what we will be asked to do is hazy. Washington has explained its varying purposes in a campaign which makes the Summa drive take on the nature of a exposé. We've heard of peace feelers six months too late and of a war's beginnings a decade after they touched us. Our fathers have chosen the sides and we must play the game.

We've heard of the Republic of South Vietnam, created against the Geneva Accords and maintained against its people. In an academic way, we've voiced an academic repugnance for the government serving the needs of only a few, for the United States extension devoid of a constituency. From within the vines, we've said "no" to a war smoothed by the flag, then too often knocked off a paper or downed a beer.

From our position of superior advantage and superior knowledge, we've scoffed at those who believed in the war. We've scoffed at the qualities those less knowledgeable and more frightened ascribed to the Viet Cong, qualities Senator McCarthy never granted in his wildest dreams. We've recognized the war for a revolution and refused to believe that the United States has carried out history's only valid revolt. "Land reform" and "social justice" we knew to be just cover because we saw those far away generals grow fat on such reform.

Our road has been the easy road with the easy possibilities. We could count on marriage with no separation, education with no responsibilities, a future with no flaws. Some turned their back on that and joined the Harveys and the Joshs but that was choice and no necessity. Others rejected what Harvey and Josh carried out and served in other ways. That possibility is still open but merely delays what is now inevitable.

Those who have been told for four years, "Let's hear what you say when Uncle Same points to you" will have to say it or forever eat it. Come June, 1968, it's either the army or Ft. Hood, resistance or compliance. What we've learned and what we've stated will be the vacuum will be tested in the air. The issue will have to faced and dissent will have to become resistance.

St. Ed's---or Durbin Dynasty?

As the issue of hall autonomy comes up for consideration in the Senate and Hall Presidents' Council, the situation in individual halls comes into increasing focus. St. Ed's has perhaps the most stringent rules of any hall, with the rector forbidding such practices as taping things to the walls or the moving of furniture in the rooms.

The result of the practices in St. Ed's is described by Academic Commissioner Chuck Nau, a former resident of the hall, as "the closest thing to a closed society on campus." If the society is not closed, some of the rooms are. Rev. Clarence Durbin, C.S.C., Rector of St. Ed's, locks the T.V. room at midnight each evening. The recreation room is also periodically closed.

Complaints have been expressed by the hall senator Dennis Kenny and hall president John Dyer that Fr. Durbin refuses, though invited, to come to

hall council meetings. According to Dyer, however, the Rector insists upon co-signing all checks made out by the hall treasurer.

The use of the chapel comes in to question, too. Hall President Dyer maintains that the

chapel is the only place large enough for lectures. However, Durbin will not allow it to be so used. There is also no evening Mass in the chapel, with daily Mass only being said very early in the morning.

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THE OBSERVER

A Student Newspaper

EDITOR - IN - CHIEF

PATRICK COLLINS

FOUNDED NOVEMBER 3, 1966

NOTRE DAME, INDIANA

Harvey, the Right Patriot Choice

Shortly, the Patriot of the Year elections will be held and the seniors will be asked to poll their favorite patriot in an act meant to add credence to an inane award.

We oppose the Patriot of the Year award and ask the seniors to consider our reasons for opposition.

Patriots should not be elected, but should be crowned by history in a reasonably meaningful context. Patriotism as defined by the committee implies a certain adherence to goals and ideas of our society which in the Twentieth Century are not necessarily congruent to a bearable condition of human existence.

If indeed, the award is to be taken seriously, then by matter of conscience no senior here should feel that he has the power to cast a vote. For no one really has the foresight to say who nor the knowledge to say why nor the power to say when.

In short, because we believe that the notion of Patriotism is essentially undefinable in terms of living people and certainly a term difficult to apply to any living men of our era, we ask that the seniors make theirs an honest vote come election time. We ask that they vote for Paul Harvey, to register a vote against Notre Dame's plastic Patriot trophy.

Mourning for Martyrs

In a burst of something other than ecumenical fervor, posters around campus last week exhorted us to remember the millions of martyrs to the Communist conspiracy. Beneath the unassailable truth that noble men have perished for their opposition to Communism, we catch a note of moral pomposity in their mourners. At least, said the Pharisee, I am not like this publican.

But America has not been unspotted these past fifty years. She hid behind her oceans while Hitler came to power. She let England, at last a lion, bleed to buy her time. She watched men fight tanks on the streets of Budapest. She watched sadly, but only watched.

We are in a position today which is similar to that of the Southern states in the 1830's. We are on the verge of affirming our own perfection, even at the expense of silencing all those who will not accept our dream world. Even now, we proclaim our grand willingness to tolerate dissent while we wish all dissenters silenced. Even now, we force war on a little

country that needs peace while Israel stands alone, calling for our aid.

We need to remember that Communism is not Evil, but only an evil not unmixed with good. If the peoples under Communism are not free in an ideal sense, still many downtrodden millions have received material prosperity and scope of opportunity far beyond that provided by the autocratic systems that Communism replaced.

So, too, we are not the great archangel Michael come to combat Satan. It is neither moral nor politic for us to oppose Communism by supporting corrupt regimes that weigh far more heavily on the people than Communism could. Nor can we excuse the sufferings of our poor on the basis that our own imperfections dwindle into nothing compared with that great specter of evil.

In short, this is not the time for moral indignation and self-satisfaction. History, if good men are born to write it, will not forgive us for being the least evil of all the evil nations. The price of liberty may be, after all, endless self-criticism.



THE REPORTER

A General in History

BY DENNIS GALLAGHER



General Harold K. Johnson, the Army Chief of Staff, was here last Friday night to speak to the student body about the Vietnam war. Here at last was a man in authority, a responsible leader who would tell us where we stand. I'm opposed to the war on both moral and practical grounds, and I didn't expect to be converted. But I recognize that there are some fairly reasonable arguments, both political and military, for our presence in Vietnam. I went to hear them, but instead the general told us a fairy tale.

General Johnson began his speech with a reference to that old chesnut, the six blind men from Indostan. Each of these sightless sages, you will remember, touched a different part of an elephant and gave a different description of what it looked like. The general argued that his official position offered him a proper perspective on the war. To use my own metaphor, I suppose he feels he is grabbing our present white whale where it lives.

As a matter of fact, General Johnson's perceptions were so selective as to be downright distortions. He persisted in talking about North Vietnam as if it were a foreign country as radically distinct from South Vietnam as Germany was from Poland. But in fact the split of Vietnam was an arbitrary one made in 1954 and even then was meant to be only temporary. He pointed to the seven divisions of North Vietnamese regulars in the South as an indication that this was not a civil war, without even considering the objection that it was the presence of large numbers of American troops fighting the Viet Cong that forced this large scale infiltration.

It was a point with pride speech. He pointed to the orphanages we've built without going in to why we had to build them. He pointed to our duly elected puppet government. He somehow didn't mention the venereal disease rate of "the smartest, the toughest, and the most highly motivated army we've ever had... a gallant army of young men and women with their toes on the freedom line who are determined that a people who want to remain free shall remain free."

Every once in a while, a hint of the realpolitik on which this war is actually based crept in. As he digressed for a brief discussion of Asian history, the general implied something of our fear of a China that would dominate Asia and perhaps even more of our absurd desire to be an absolutely secure Big Brother to the rest of the world.

But mostly the politics of power was concealed under the rhetoric of democracy, as General Johnson equated anti-communism and freedom with all the bland assuredness of a John Birch. It was easy to agree with several pro-war realists who found Johnson's speech laughable.

But most of the crowd didn't. General Johnson received a grand total of four standing ovations from Vietnam fans eager to prove that their pro-war sentiments had nothing to do with any intellectual commitment.

It is hard to totally condemn a man like General Johnson, who is at least seriously concerned with avoiding a larger war and the nuclear holocaust that might ensue. But he talked down to us.

After the speech, Bill Reishman read a rather humble and courteous statement calling for those who opposed the war to rise and observe a moment of silence. About one hundred of the five hundred present did so. General Johnson, a bit unnerved, reacted with the non sequitur that somehow the war in Vietnam was being fought to preserve our right of dissent. It was just another condescending pat on the head from a general who had come to tell it to the kids but who just wouldn't tell it straight.

THE OBSERVER

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Another Story of Another Vietnam Debate

The Academic Commission's first Oxford-style debate Wednesday night produced differing opinions on stage and in the audience. The topic was Vietnam.

Affirmative speaker Chris Manion, YAF activist and Reagan campaign manager at the Mock Convention, built his case on Communist aggression, maintaining that true security and hence true peace are impossible unless the U.S. wins in Vietnam.

In reply, Tom Figel of the Negative questioned whether the United States is truly supporting democracy in Vietnam.

After Vietnam veteran Bill Kelly defended the U.S. presence for the Affirmative, Student Senator Don Hynes addressed himself to the issue of peace.

In a strongly worded statement Hynes maintained that the United States cannot be waging war to achieve a true peace.

The Debate's question period allowed time for two minute statements from the audience.

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Police Arrest Two Students for Gilbert's Robbery

Two Notre Dame students were picked up Thursday by Notre Dame Security and are being held in the St. Joseph County jail in connection with the Nov. 2 robbery of Gilbert's Campus Store. The two were apprehended after footlockers containing part of the stolen merchandise were discovered.

St. Joseph County Sheriff Elmer Sokol, a former head of Notre Dame Security, credited

his successor Arthur Pears plus Sgts. Joseph Horvath and Elmer Chikar with making the apprehension. The investigating officers had been on the lookout for packages being shipped from Notre Dame. Thursday they discovered the footlockers at the Rea express office.

Approximately \$6,000 worth of clothing, including 50 suits, had been reported stolen. According to Sokol, a quantity of

the merchandise has been recovered.

Following their arrests, the two students were interrogated at the county jail Thursday night. Sheriff Sokol plans to get affidavits from the prosecutor's office Monday. The office was closed Friday in honor of Veteran's Day.

Gilbert's was entered in the early morning hours of Nov. 2. The burglars pushed out a plywood panel temporarily cover-

ing a 6-by-10-foot hole where a window had been broken. The articles of clothing taken were numerous, including the 50 suits, coats, and other items. Police questioned at least one student who was seen wearing a sweater similar to one taken in the heist. In the end, though, it was the express office discovery which yielded a yet undisclosed amount of merchandise.

The names of the students were not immediately disclosed by the Sheriff's office or Campus Security Chief Pears, but it is believed one resided in Morrissey, the other off-campus. Further information was unavail-

able.

The Gilbert's robbery is the first of its robbery size on campus. During prime periods of business, a Campus Security officer is usually in evidence somewhere in or near the confines of the Bookstore. However, the early morning Gilbert's robbery escaped immediate notice, although a solution to the crime now appears in the offing.

Seniors Initiate High Coffee Hour

The Senior Class Religious Commission has initiated a "High Coffee Hour" this year from 10 to 2 Sundays. Purpose, according to Religious Commissioner Denny O'Dea, is to provide a gathering place for people with no place to go Sunday mornings.

The coffee hour has attracted up to 100 people each morning it has been held. It has provided considerable religious dialogue, as many have chosen to come to the coffee hour following Mass. Others are attracted by the offer of free coffee and doughnuts.

According to Dwight Norwood, who, with O'Dea presides

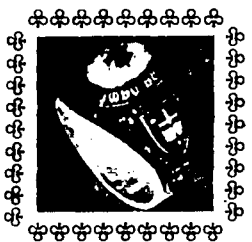
over the coffee hour, the true test of the project will come now with the end of the home football season. In its first two weeks, it attracted a considerable crowd. However, as Norwood sees it, the project's viability comes now that there are less people on campus Sunday mornings.

**LOUIE'S HAM
SANDWICH —
A MEAL IN
ITSELF**

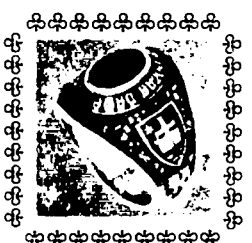
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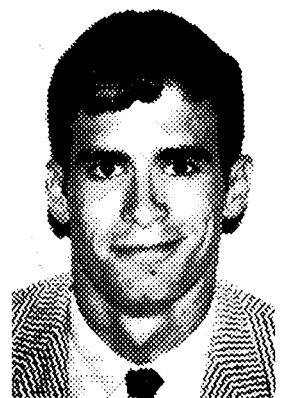
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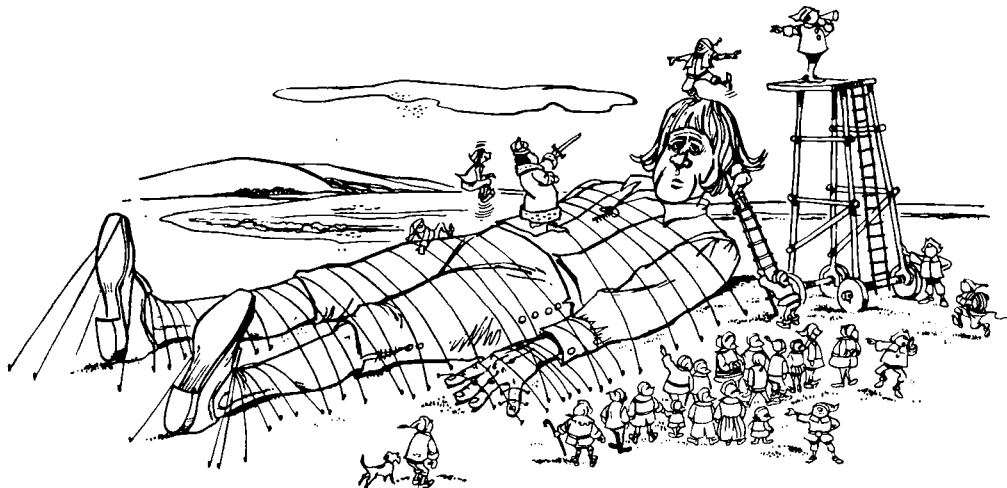
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THE IRISH EYE

A Pity



BY AL BERRYMAN

It's not easy to write about something that you didn't even see. During the Pittsburgh game, I was having my mind blown by the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, New Jersey. When you take the Law Boards, you find out just how little you learned in four years.

Anyway, things turned out as expected at Pitt Stadium, as the Irish turned in the first shutout of the season, 38-0. It was homecoming for a number of the Pennsylvanians on Notre Dame's team, and they showed the folks that they had learned a few things about the game since graduation from high school.

It sounds like Dave Hart's rebuilding job may take him a little longer than he expected, especially if he has to play the schedules that Pitt's athletic department has set up for him.

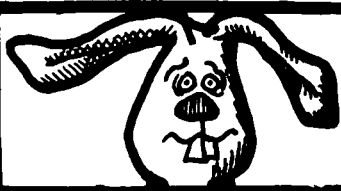
The game featured some new innovations for Ara Parseghian's men; as they tried a fullback option pass in the first half. Ron Dushney's lob fell incomplete. In the second half, they took one right out of the New York Giants' playbook, with a triple-handoff pass to Paul Snow on the last play of the day.

But when it came down to reasons for winning, it was a case of blocking and tackling that did it again for the Irish. Jim Winegardner came into his own, grabbing four passes for 66 yards. Terry Hanratty's effectiveness was not diminished by the loss of Seymour as he turned in another quality job. And Tom Schoen bolted 78 yards on a punt return for a touchdown, in addition to intercepting a pass for 40 yards. Two more games like that one, and he's a cinch All-American.

Elsewhere in the world last Saturday, Johnny Pont's Cardiac Kids ran the ball right down Michigan State's throat to win a 14-13 decision. And at Corvallis, Oregon, Dee Andros' giant-killers humbled previously invincible USC. Along with North Carolina State's loss to Penn State, it leaves Wyoming and Indiana as the nation's only undefeated, untied major colleges.

All of which will do a mess on this week's ratings. Indiana Number One? I just can't bring myself to believe it. What about Oregon State? After playing Number One, Number Two and Number Two within four weeks and coming off with a 2-0-1 record, they deserve some mention for Top Ten. Tennessee and UCLA both won impressively, and the No. 1 ranking this week should go to one of them.

Meanwhile, the Irish are due for a boost in the ratings. This Saturday they travel to Atlanta to face a Snow-less Georgia Tech club that is coming off a 49-7 drubbing by Miami. You have to wonder what happened to all the Playboy Magazine Top Ten.



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Personal

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Jerry Murphy

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Few Remain to Follow Prof. Sommer

BY JOEL CONNELLY

One evening last winter, on a WNDU News program, there was a feature on the Notre Dame Debate team. In a debate at Detroit, the Irish debaters had defeated their Michigan State counterpart; arguing the topic that Notre Dame was the number one football team in the nation. Notre Dame Debate Coach Leonard Sommer appeared on the TV program proud as the proverbial peacock.

Two viewers, however, thought his interview less than amusing. They were the team members who had gone to Detroit, and who had defeated Michigan State. Professor Sommer had not helped them beforehand, and had in fact only heard them debate once the whole year. He had not even bothered to go to Detroit. Yet, here was Mr. Sommer, taking credit on television and, to magnify the insult, not even mentioning the names of his successful team members. As the interview ended, one of the debaters watching rose and sighed "Well, that's our coach!"

The foregoing incident is more than symbolic of the Notre Dame Debate squad. Incidents similar to this, plus a dearth of coaching, has cut active team membership drastically in recent years. Last year, of fifty who had turned out at the start of the year, fewer than ten remained at the end, with only a half dozen debating.

Why? The Notre Dame team has, in the past, had one of the most outstanding records in the nation. When accepting an award in the midst of Joe Kuharich's football tenure, Bob Hope was at least able to quip "Well, at least your debate team is winning."

The victories are fewer now, and confined to the freshmen and one or two outstanding teams. The team is, except for occasional assistance by its senior members, rarely coached. One debater, who served as president of the team, travelled to tournaments as far away as Los Angeles, and was on the squad for three years, had Professor Sommer listen to him but once in that period. Last year, two team members had to arrange a full month in advance for Sommer to hear them, although at the time there were but a dozen members of the team.

The quality of coaching, what little there is of it, is also doubtful. Upon listening to one team last year, the coach had but two comments to make, neither of them critical of the debating performance. However, he summoned one of the partners outside and told him "That little partner of yours stinks."

Professor Sommer has had, in 22 years of coaching, an outstanding record. His specialty as a teacher is speech. However, debate has, in recent years, shifted emphasis to use of evidence



PROFESSOR SOMMER

and organization, with delivery being but one of six categories debaters are judged on. Debate coaches are now as much logicians as speech teachers, and Sommer is no logician.

The practice schedule of the debate squad is a case of progressing disarray. Team members have regular practice debates normally for the first two months of the year, but after that the practice schedule disintegrates, and with it much of the freshman membership of the team. The team is reduced to a few people who "stick it out" with little training for the rest.

Personality effects the team, too. Professor Sommer has a reputation with many people of being a difficult man to deal with. In the midst of a meeting last year, before the entire team, a freshman in the Innsbruck Program approached Sommer to say that a class conflicted with debate practice. The coach responded to the scholarship debater by telling him: "Well, in that case you can take your fifteen thousand dollars and... Get off my team, sir, get out of here."

Professor Sommer's personality causes considerable havoc on the team, especially in view of his habit of taking a team member aside and denouncing his partner in strong and occasionally obscene terms. The partner being denounced knows nothing of the coach's anger at him and, in fact, receives no criticism from Sommer.

Last year, in a personal case, I was told "You've got to dump that partner of yours. Get rid of him. Never even speak to him again." In another case, Sommer privately scorned the president of the team to me before a meeting, but was effusive in his praise of the president during the meeting.

The internal problems of the team have an effect on its role in competition. Some debaters endeavor to avoid and ignore the coach, but others need help and do not receive it. At one meet, while the team stayed at the Shoreland Hotel in Chicago, Professor Sommer stayed at the Palmer House. Even when Sommer does join the team, his time is exclusively devoted to story-telling, with no coaching whatsoever. Personal piques enter the picture, too, as Sommer forbids team members to bring typewriters along on tournaments, calling them "a useless extravagance."

As with any sport at Notre Dame, Debate is a team activity. The University has an outstanding record at Debate, a better record than many Ivy League Schools famed for their academic excellence. In national championship tournament invitations, Notre Dame exceeds any other school. However, from two years experience on the team, I can testify to the fact that it is going downhill.

For those on the Notre Dame Debate Team, the coach is someone to be endured. High living at tournaments makes up for agony getting there. For a few at the top who need little coaching, life is good. For the freshman with potential but no polish, it is lacking in a stimulus or hope.

At the beginning of the year, a rosy record is pointed to and towering aspirations are expressed. Professor Sommer even promises to listen to the team. Those days of concern, though, are numbered. A faithful few persist and carry the burden, but this faithful few is growing smaller. Professor Sommer marches on, but few remain to follow him.

OBSERVER FEATURES

There Is Nothing

BY PAT GAFFNEY

Last Monday morning, when the refreshed student body emerged from that periodic cocoon of euphoria, the weekend, there was a new ubiquitous black on orange poster to greet them. It announced rather verbosely, as signs go, that I. M. Bochenski was going to speak the following Friday afternoon on "The Methods of the 'Soft' Sciences."

The title lent itself to a bit of ambiguity. Without further elaboration, his audience might have well consisted of amateur pillow-makers, unenlightened Norman Mailer readers, and perhaps a few St. Mary's freshmen with complexion problems. But the Department of Philosophy, never one to deceive deliberately, listed his credits quite carefully: Dominican priest, University of Fribourg, Director of the Soviet Institute, author and expert on formal and mathematical logic, honorary doctorates...etc.

He was one of them kind. It was a good thing that the brief-cased masses came through the doors of O'Shaughnessy single file; if it had been any more congested, the collective yawning might have sucked the poster and probably the paint right off the walls.

But by 3:15 Friday afternoon, little knots of professors and grad students began to gather around the entrance to the library auditorium. By 3:30, a handful of hirsute undergraduates had joined them and the listeners began taking their seats.

The seating arrangement was unique and noteworthy. The room was hardly a fourth full, but ninety per cent of the audience was seated in the first few seats of each row, far to the speakers left. When these were filled, from the rear to the front, the in-comers seated themselves on the turquoise carpet near the door. It looked as if those who'd come early expected a smaller crowd, and those who'd come later wanted to stay prepared for a quiet exit.

The talk proved rather interesting. At one point, he grew vehement about historiographers who, academically speaking, "are doing something very much like masturbation." These are men who use improper methods, using history for the wrong ends by forwarding "synthetic a priori statements." History and other "soft" sciences must not be approached like chemistry (and other "hard" sciences) which can study on-going phenomenon.

He ended with a solemn warning against "philosophical hippyism", the attitude that all problems can be solved by love. It won't work, he said, for "outside logic there is nothing, well, if you wish, there is nonsense."

The lecture covered the usual range. Some fell asleep. Many scribbled voluminous notes. Several were stimulated to piercing questions. A few stealthed out early. It seems as if even though the pillow-makers, Mailer fans and mal-complexioned did pass this one up, the present and would-be historiographers, philosophers on all levels were grateful and after the question period they gave him a hardy applause.