

THE OBSERVER



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MARDI GRAS '68

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Challenge 3-1/2: Mardi Gras '68 Gets University Sanction



"St. Mary's To Be Allowed To Compete In Mardi Gras"

Saint Mary's College authorities were reported overwhelmed by the prospect of their girls competing in Notre Dame's Mardi Gras raffle charity drive. "It will give us girls a chance to prove we're #1. We know we can match Notre Dame guys in brains and brawn but this will give us a chance to match them in a far more important aspect, the selling of raffle books," a prominent member of the Saint Mary's student council was quoted as saying. Across the road however, Notre Dame students were not quite as willing to allow the Saint Mary's girls to participate. "They try to pull something like this every year," an irate senior commented. The overwhelming opinion at Notre Dame was that it was just another excuse to bring the belles of Saint Mary's into a closer union with Notre Dame men.

The Saint Mary's administration also announced that because of the College's goal to sell more raffle books than Notre Dame, dating hours would be severely curtailed (which for once would be action on the better side of the 6 to 1 relationship). Weekend dating was to be abolished as it would cut into valuable time that could be used to sell raffle books. The Saint Mary's social commission also sees sell-ins and other forms of "raffle selling dates" as a big boon to ND-SMC relationships. "Now they will accept us for more than our great

beauty and wonderful personalities," a modest Le Mans Sophomore was heard to say. Of course, there are still some problems to be worked out — the administration does not particularly like the idea of their girls accepting money from strangers.

In order to change the belles otherwise drab appearance, there have been rumors of a proposed prize of a new wardrobe from a prominent big-city retailer in an effort to enhance the loveliness of the Saint Mary's girl who sells the greatest number of raffle books. And as the result of many diligent hours of planning and negotiations with Mr. Cahill on the part of the Mardi Gras staff, the winner of the Saint Mary's student prize will also have the opportunity to retain her season pass to the Notre Dame football games.

Meanwhile, the Notre Dame social commission announced plans to send raffle books to the beloved home town honeys in an effort to keep the competition keen. Also rumored were plans to bring the Barat Bombers into the raffle drive if the Saint Mary's girls seem to be faring poorly by Nov. 22. Local bookmakers however feel the Saint Mary's girls are just too good for the Fighting Irish and have installed them as 20,000 raffle book favorites in the big drive.

"No Fix This Year" — S. U. Commission

The University of Notre Dame Student Union revealed in an exclusive interview today that no preference whatsoever would be used in the selection of this year's winner of the Mardi Gras raffle.

"We feel that if we restrict the number of ticket holders eligible it will create indifference on the part of the public in response to the raffle drive. Remember, Mardi Gras is for charity. If we don't like the person who wins the car we simply won't give it to him — but we will in no way restrict his chances of possessing the winning ticket . . ."

If the winning ticket holder is judged unlikeable and does not receive the car, he still is eligible, if he so desires, to have himself cast in bronze and placed in a prominent position on the east side of the library holding a finger in the air.

Unfortunately, the commission also admitted that they could not guarantee preference would not be kept out of the selection of the winner of the student prize which is a 1968 Corvette convertible.

"In our opinion, the *right* person should win the Corvette — what could be better than to have the hard working Mardi Gras Chairman be the winner? Some of us on the student union commission would like to win it too, but then we all do get a free bid to Homecoming every year and taking too much for granted just wouldn't be couth."

Will Get Your Money

The University of Notre Dame administration and the social commission announced yesterday at a joint press conference held at the Senior Bar, plans for another monumental money drive — possibly rivaling the great national gold recall of 1933. Because of the vagueness of the proposed charity, the student body president addressed the historic conference on the primary goals involved. After speaking six hours and saying nothing relevant (a usual habit, we understand) he surrendered the floor to another high-ranking university official who later granted an exclusive interview to the *Observer*.

He reported that the proposed fraud . . . er, fund is destined for the benefit of "Notre Dame Charities"; the original proposal of purchasing a Sherman tank for the campus cops having been vetoed only after considerable debate. The new plans call for the addition of upwards of ten stories onto the present library structure; a personal jet for the unrestricted use of Father Hesburgh; and five high rise dorms, perhaps co-ex, in an effort to alleviate the present shortage of on-campus housing.

The method of solicitation will be based on the sale of raffle books which all N.D. students will be "encouraged" to peddle. Once again the venerable administration will allow all students either to keep 1/10 of 1% of their total sales or be allowed to remain in school for the second semester. Rumor has it that after depleting our South Bend neighbors of all their financial resources, certain students may be allowed a four day weekend at the end of November in order to drum up sales back home. The *Observer* learned further that a large contingent of N. D. seniors especially selected for their representative qualities will invade the Gold Coast of Florida and attempt to impose on a bit of Southern Generosity. Under the guise of a student football trip, the students will prey on helpless vacationers and local bartenders in an attempt to capitalize on the Dixie financial structure. If the weekend is successful, the social commissioner has promised to ask the administration about the possibility of granting the most tenacious sellers a two week break commencing December 16 during which they could carry the charity drive to all parts of the nation. This however, is likely to place an additional burden on N. D.'s foreign students as they would be expected to solicit on an international basis. Naturally it is hoped that students drafted into the armed services during the course of the semester will also do their part and circulate raffle books in major areas of the Far East.

Meanwhile, the Office of Academic Affairs has admitted considering the possibility of computing each student's total sales into his cumulative grade point average. Seniors expecting recommendations from their deans however, will have to rely on past years' participation. And from the Dean of Students office we have learned that plans are in the works to suspend all students who have not sold their raffle quotas by January 30.

The chairman of the drive tells us that the winning raffle ticket holder (drawn completely at random as always) will receive as his grandprize a 1968 Buick Riviera which has reportedly been seen on campus during the past few football weekends. The unofficial reason for this revealing of the hitherto secret prize was that the social commissioner could find no other place to park it free of charge. The prize will be awarded to the winning ticket holder on the condition that the raffle chairman feels that the students have taken a sufficient interest in the sale of raffle books. Otherwise, the raffle drawing will be declared invalid and the raffle chairman will keep the car himself as he has usually done in previous years.

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