

Campus Supplement
to the
Religious Bulletin
November 7, 1932

Don't Lose Your Sense Of Direction.

A review of certain events of the past week is in order. It should remain just between ourselves. You have done some things wisely, some unwisely; some things well, some things not at all. You took the hint (delivered with a brick, of course) that the University was offering two Novenas of Masses for your departed relatives and friends, and the lists of names handed in increased 400%. You realized the importance of prayer for the team when the matter was pointed out to you, and the number of Holy Communions last Saturday increased almost 30%, while the number of students who attended the Mass for the team increased over 300%.

That was good - but it could have been much better. Your attendance at Holy Communion last Saturday would have been very much better, for instance, had you stayed on the campus that evening and gone to Benediction - and confession if you needed it.

You were right in resenting imputations of lack of spirit last Sunday morning, but your method of showing resentment was, in part, the wrong method. There was no call for you to go to town during the student Mass last Sunday - we quashed that ourselves when the matter was proposed on Saturday afternoon. On Sunday morning your place is in the church, and if Notre Dame ever sets religion aside for "campus spirit" it will mean that she has lost the "spirit" that has guided her to where she now stands. No matter what criticism comes from outside or in - if there is a principle involved, stand for the principle. The obligation of Sunday Mass stood in the way of a demonstration last Sunday morning - and that obligation rightly prevailed.

Dillon Hall did right in resenting slurs - anonymous slurs, it appears - on the character of its students, and in part the resentment was shown in the right manner. By posting an answer where the charges were made, and by writing to the Scholastic about it, the responsible committee made effective protest. What went beyond these measures was unwise. When protest reaches mob proportions it may be tragic.

There are certain definite limits to your actions. If you keep these in mind and follow them, your actions will be above reproach, your conduct will be representative of the institutions you stand for - your family, your school, your Church.

What are these limits? They are set by the Ten Commandments of God and the Precepts of the Church, the traditions of the University, and family honor. Among the Ten Commandments of God are the Fourth and the Seventh. By the Fourth Commandment we are obliged to show due respect to all superiors - parents, civil authorities, school authorities, priests and religious. And by the Seventh Commandment we are bound to respect the property rights of others. The University never has tolerated, and cannot in conscience tolerate, disregard for these Commandments. On one occasion in the historic past she reduced her student body twenty-five per cent rather than wink at such disregard. And in the popular mind she apparently threw away a national championship a few years ago rather than permit disregard of a Precept of the Church.

The University wants you to have fun - lots of it - but the right kind of fun. The plans for the coming week-end include plenty of legitimate fun, and if you enter into it wholeheartedly, and suppress just as wholeheartedly any spontaneous deviation from it that would transgress the limits set above, all will be well. She wants you to smile - with a smile that comes from a clean heart; but she doesn't want hysteria. It has no place at Notre Dame.

And don't let the celebration scheduled for next Friday evening interfere with your confession for Saturday morning. Take care of it before that time.