

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 15, 1937.

Everyday Culture.

The following expression from "A Graduate Student" should open the eyes and shut the mouths of the late-adolescents at Notre Dame:

What is needed at Notre Dame (and at many another university) is a movement for the everyday manifestation of culture. It is a known fact that the universities are yearly turning out men who possess gentlemanly tastes and habits, but somehow or other, because of naivete or aversion toward affectation, students often show reluctance to act like gentlemen.

They seem to prefer to garble and disfigure their speech than to talk with the precision and distinction and modesty befitting the truly educated man. They would rather gripe and complain than submit willingly to the reasonable disciplines necessary for the conduct of gentlemen. They prefer to shout and guffaw uproariously at a campus movie than to remain quiet and laugh normally whenever their risibilities are aroused.

My face was red when I learned that a priest stopped the show last Saturday night. Most of the students at that show were freshmen, true; but, sad to say, their bigger brothers acted later hardly much better. I could shrug my shoulders and attribute vulgarity to irresponsible boyish spontaneity, but I have come finally to the conclusion that it is attributable to unwillingness on the part of the students to display anything of the culture which they are acquiring at Notre Dame. "One must act as the crowd acts." This principle seems to constitute the modus operandi at the campus movie. Mob psychology is nearer to the cause of the behavior.

It is very fortunate for the student himself, as well as for the University, that the way of acting collectively is not practiced in the individual life of each Notre Dame man. If it were the world outside would soon have a very bad opinion of Notre Dame students. The fact that one very rarely meets up with a Notre Dame man who is not inherently every inch a gentleman makes the weekly Saturday night behavior all the more puzzling.

The remedy for correcting unrefined actions may be quite simple. We do not have to assume that the Notre Dame student is a gentleman; we know he is. All we propose that he do is to practice externally what he is internally. If every student does this, then mob psychology will be on the side of refinement and of law and order at the campus movies, and culture will breathe wholesome air on the Notre Dame campus where, of all places, culture should truly flourish.

Yours for the more obvious gentleman.

A Father's Prayer For His Son.

Give him a good digestion, Lord, and also something to digest. Give him a healthy body, Lord, with sense enough to keep it at its best. Give him a healthy mind, Good Lord, to keep the good and pure in sight, which, seeing sin, is not appalled but finds a way to set it right. Give him a mind that is not bound, that does not whimper, whine or sigh. Don't let him worry overmuch about the thing he calls "I." Give him a sense of humor, Lord. Give him the grace to see a joke, to get some happiness out of life and pass it on to other folk. (---Anonymous.)

PRAYERS: (deceased) Rev. Dominic Sweeney (Cleveland Diocese); cousin of Al Perrine (Fresh); mother of Francis Brew (Mor); Theresa K. Holtman; Sister M. Melissa; mother of Father Beaghan C.S.C.; father of Geo. Blaha ('33); friend of Duke Veeneman (Mor); Sister Blondina. Ill, (seriously) mother of John Leonard Kenkel ('33). 6 spec ints.