

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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Notre Dame, Ind.

GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER

Last week five people in Belgium were acquitted of the murder of a deformed baby. The grandmother and aunt had plotted with the mother to take the baby's life, a doctor had prescribed the drug to be administered in the baby's formula, and the father had acquiesced in silence. These, at least, are the facts as presented in newspaper accounts. On the basis of these facts the jury brought in a verdict of "not guilty" and the crowds in the courtroom and in the streets cheered the decision.

Here is the last word in sentimentality, a decision dictated wholly by the emotions with no trace of reason. All the elements of murder were present -- the life of an innocent human being was directly taken. Even the circumstances of impulse or fear or anger were not present to mitigate the guilt. The murder was planned and executed with care and deliberation.

We wonder whether Helen Keller or any of the thousands who have triumphed over handicaps of birth concur in this decision of the jury and in the applause of the multitude. The poor armless, deformed baby had a right to life, a right to develop her potentialities as a human being, a right to make her contribution to society, a right to grow in wisdom and grace, a right to become a great saint.

What about the parents? Do they have to accept such a burden? There is no denying that a great sacrifice was asked of them, but, as a matter of fact, parents of handicapped children often find that their greatest joy and consolation comes from this child whose love for the parents is more intense because of the greater dependence. From the supernatural viewpoint, God never inflicts a burden for which He does not provide the strength of compensating graces to help sustain it.

These murderers may have been acquitted by the jury, but they still must face the judgment of God.

In Your Charity

Please pray for the following. Deceased: father of Travis Wing of Breen-Phillips; Lt. Richard S. Horsfall, '59. Ill: Nordy Hoffman, '32, former football player and assistant coach; Daniel McAllister, brother of Mac, athletic equipment custodian.

Father Baker's Fresh From the Pad is again to the point. See other side.



Weekend Notes

The North Carolina game tomorrow will be dedicated to Our Lady of La Salette, the apparition of the Blessed Virgin to the two shepherd children in France in 1846.

Again this Saturday, for your convenience and to accommodate the football guests, there will be three Masses in Sacred Heart Church -- the regular Mass at 11:30 and two extra Masses, at 9:30 and 10:30.

AFTER THE LIGHTS GO DOWN LOW

The Tango, the Cha-Cha, Rock-n-Roll, and the Twist are on their way out. Murray, Astaire, and Dale have come up with a real winner. The lights dim. The soft, slow music ("Moon River", "Misty") begins. You and your lovely melt together like two globs of snow. This new toe-tapping caper is very economical: it can be executed in an area no larger than a postage stamp.

Professional Dance Studios or amateur teachers can show you the fine points of the art of dancing. But that "old-lady", known as human nature, also has a few priceless tips on choreography.

You and Precious aren't put together like IBM machines. You're not just a conglomeration of separate parts: brain, imagination, body, and emotions. These various parts, which are you, don't operate in isolation. They don't walk alone. Your senses, imagination and emotions are intimately inter-laced. Regardless of your motive you can't perform an action and hope to turn off all the rest of the reactions. This chain reaction is a built-in feature of your human nature. You are a unit. You act as a unit. This is true of everything you do --- dancing is no exception.

So when you and your partner cast only one shadow on the dance floor and collide like two home-sick ice cubes you shouldn't be at all stunned to find your imagination going into orbit and your emotions churning-up inside you. You're not sporting a Gardol suit of invisible protection. You're not made out of stainless steel. You're human. And whether you're honest enough to admit it or not you have very definite reactions to certain stimulants.

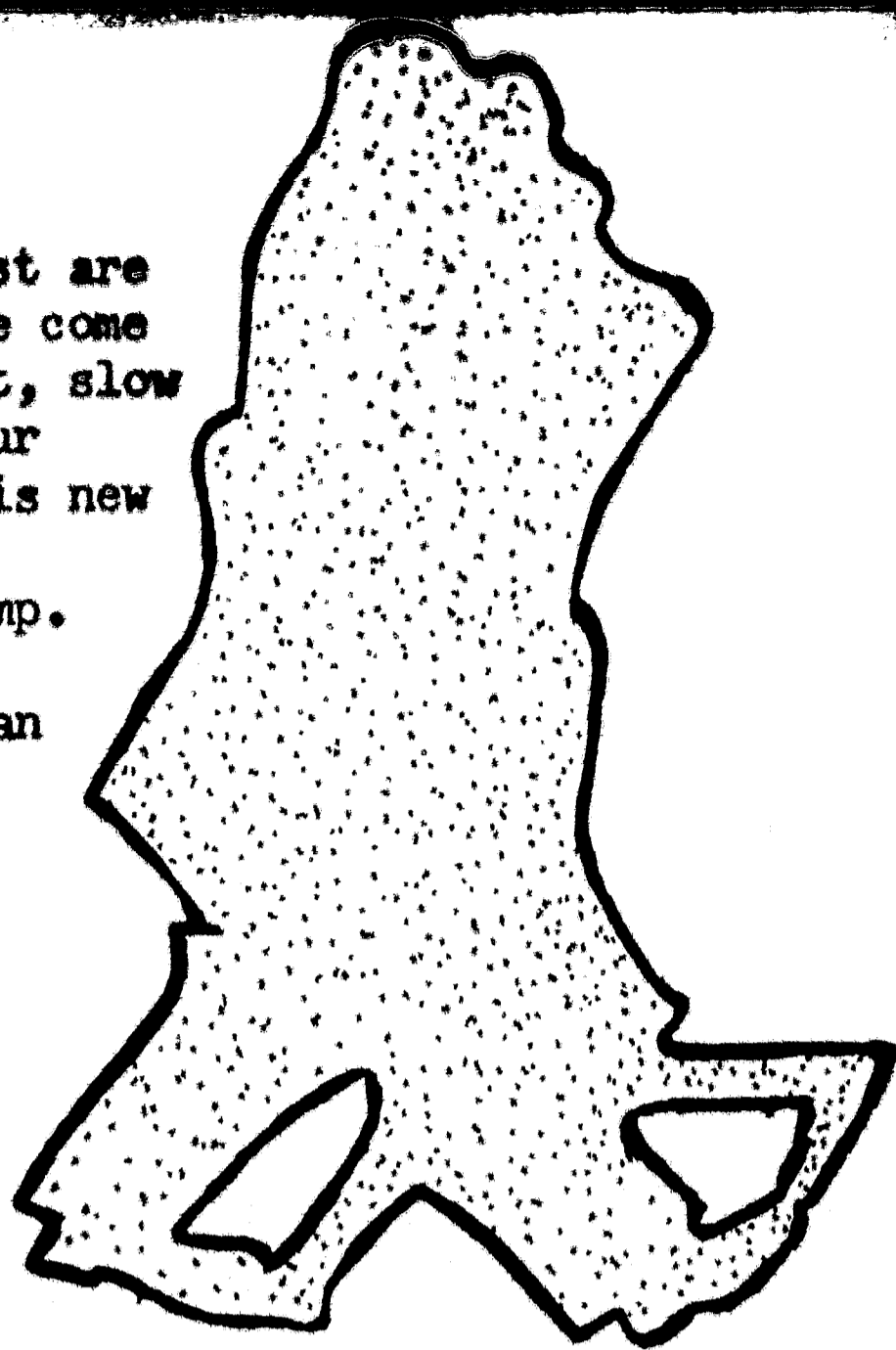
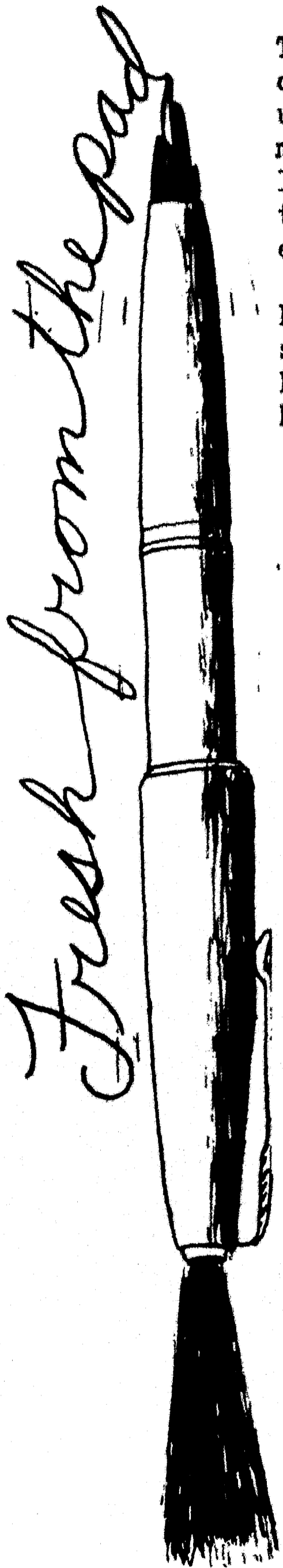
They Learned In A Phone Booth

If you were an Angel there would be no danger. But in case you haven't noticed, that 165 pounds you drag around is a body. And that wonderful creature in your arms isn't an extra-large Panda. She's live. No, the idea behind dancing isn't to press the girl's corsage.

Some Fellows can't figure out why they are tortured by so many temptations. When they try to study, to pray, or think, they are haunted by images in their imagination and memory. "Father, why am I bothered by impure thoughts and desires?" There are many reasons for temptations but one thing is for sure: stimulating experiences have a way of branding themselves on one's memory and imagination.

WHAT ABOUT DANCING? All you have to do is answer two simple questions honestly. What are your motives when you dance? Do you dance in such a way that your human nature is bound to react either while you are dancing or later? If you're not honest with yourself, then you'll be much like the fellow who willingly goes into a steam bath but is bound and determined not to sweat.

Colorful Girl: One who likes men with blue eyes, brown hair, and greenbacks.



Which One Has The "Toni"

