

Student Vices.

On the Religious Survey last Spring, the principle student vices pointed out by students were the following:

1. Disrespect for authority, especially for priests;
2. Petty thieving -- sometimes not so petty;
3. Filthy language;
4. Ignorance of Catholic doctrine and practices.

There was nothing radical in this testimony. It stuck out frequently in the midst of high and sincere praise for the moral character of Notre Dame men. It was the complaint of friends, who looked for perfection in the Notre Dame man.

Reduction ad absurdum.

In their lowest common denominators, these vices appear as the following crudities:

1. Calfishness;
2. Bumptiousness;
3. Boorishness;
4. Dumbness.

Any one of these defects of character is serious enough to stop the whole process of education, and drag its subject down below the level of mediocrity.

Calfishness.

A calf may have soulful eyes, and picturesque ears; its gambols may awaken mirth in the tired heart; but did you ever try to lead a calf? it will tangle itself in ropes, butt its head against a stone wall, & jump into a well, rather than obey -- and its blah, blah, is more pesky than the bray of an ass. It has one advantage over the human calf; its hide makes good leather. In either case you feel sorry for the calf's parents.

Bumptiousness.

The person who presumes upon the genial democracy of Notre Dame to make common property out of everyone's private domain, is generally very touchy upon his own rights.

Boorishness.

The man who can't conquer his tongue has no control over his own mind. A brute is governed by instinct: all of his actions are predestined. Such a man needs an animal trainer, not an educator.

Dumbness.

Ignorance ~~is~~ can be aired by removing dumbness, which means a stupid lack of interest in matters which concern you. The only difficulty is that like the owl, the dumber you are the wiser you look.