

Who Sets the Pace?

In every gang there is a leader. Good or bad, he is a leader.

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The gang makes the leader. He may assume leadership, or the gang may thrust it upon him, but without the support of the gang his leadership ends.

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At Notre Dame you can find anything you look for, anything you want. You will not find evil in all its hideousness, although you will find it here pretty hideous at times, and all the more startling because of the contrast. You can find evil if you look for it.

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Take the matter of your conversation. Who sets the pace? Is it a student of intelligence, good sense, of sound home training, or is it a gutter-snipe? Perhaps you will not find the gutter-snipe at Notre Dame, but you will find his breed. It must needs be so unfortunately.

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Your strength of character is tested by your environment. No man ever needs to listen to a dirty story. No man of good breeding will insult the memory of his mother or the respect he owes his sisters by listening to a dirty story. No Notre Dame man will desecrate these sacred precincts dedicated to the Mother of God by permitting an unclean story to be told in his presence.

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It has, perhaps, never occurred to you that the stupid fellow who starts any improper conversation is just as heartily ashamed of himself as you are of him. The chances are that he brought with him from high school one of those childish notions that to be a man one must play horse with all the nicer things of life. Perhaps if you told him that you thought better of him he would begin to think better of himself.

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Why not assume the leadership of your gang? You must think that you are better than somebody else or you would not be in college. You must expect to be a leader some day. What do you expect to lead? A bunch of mule-skinners? A herd of goats?

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No man develops leadership simply by wishing for it. Leadership means backbone, and a little exercise with the dumbbells is a wonderful tonic for the backbone. Pick out a few dumbbells for practice.

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The Class for non-Catholics.

The class for non-Catholics began Monday evening and will be held every Monday and Tuesday evening at 7:00 o'clock in Room 117 Main Building. Catholic students who attended public schools are invited to make use of this class to supplement their Sunday School instructions.

John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.,  
Prefect of Religion.